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Gurpreet Malhi was looking for a job, but she found so much more. Read about her remarkable journey that led her from India to California, and from Sikhism to Adventism.

Photo provided by Adventist Health.
Lost and Found

Ricardo Graham

I am sure that by now you have heard or read the account of the three teenage boys who were lost at sea near the tropical island of Fiji. The young men — fifteen and fourteen years old — had set out from their island to another one nearby. They had drifted 800 miles off course and were presumed lost and dead. Their village organized a search, and the military got involved, but the rescue attempt proved fruitless. They found no one — nothing — not even a capsized boat. Survival was impossible, they thought, and they gave up hope. Their home village mourned for them and actually held memorial services, thinking that no one could possibly survive at sea that long in their small fishing boat.

But 50 days after the boys disappeared a crewmember on a fishing boat spotted a small vessel bobbing in the open sea northeast of Fiji. Coming closer, the crew discovered the missing vessel. And the three boys were on it. Emaciated but alive, they had miraculously survived. They had collected fresh rainwater to drink, and caught an occasional flying fish to eat. They even captured and ate a bird that landed on their boat.

As I heard this story on the news and read it again online — writers Pita Ligaiula and Ray Lilley give a full account in their Associated Press rendition — several spiritual thoughts came to mind.

First, there are people — many of them our own youth — lost in the open, seemingly lost from God, living a life abandoned to worldliness without God and hope. They are all around us.

Sometimes we give up on them, thinking that their cause is hopeless. But we should never abandon people. God alone knows their true condition. He alone can read the heart. It may appear to us that they are helpless and hopeless, but Heavenly Forces are always at work, continuing the work of Jesus to seek and save the lost.

See Luke 19:10. Just as Jesus pursued Zaccheus, He searches for people today in ways that we may not know of, through what appear to be coincidences and happenstance, but are actually the well-coordinated movements of Divine Providence.

Second, God has ways to keep their faith alive, though it may appear to us that they are “dead in trespasses and sin” (Ephesians 2:1). The same God who has “quickened us” is at work to resurrect the dormant spiritual life of others. There are many around us who seem to be hopeless when they are actually searching silently, hearts craving for an answer to their questions of life summarized in the thought, “is that all there is?” The word of God has the answer, and we are prepared to give them hope and help for daily living.

Ellen White once wrote, “All over the world men and women are looking wistfully to heaven. Prayers and tears and inquiries go up from souls longing for light, for grace, for the Holy Spirit. Many are on the verge of the kingdom, waiting only to be gathered in.” Acts of the Apostles, 109.

The three young men were found alive and their friends and relatives who had previously mourned them received them with great joy and jubilation. I am sure there was a reunion party that had all the elements of celebration.

Jesus told us in Luke 15:10 “There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.”

Who knows what joy we can have when our lost are found, transforming tears of mourning into tears of joy?

When it comes to rescuing the perishing and caring for the dying, let’s adopt the attitude of Sir Winston Churchill who summarized his World War II resolve by saying, “Never, never, never give up.” Who knows who will be in the Kingdom because we, with God, never gave up?
During the ChurchWorks Seminar with Marti Schneider more than a year ago, Tony Anobile, Arizona Conference president, determined to boldly advance Arizona outreach for Christ.

“The scriptures testify of the deep love that Jesus has for mankind,” Anobile explains. “He has declared that every person will have an opportunity to hear and accept the gospel before He returns.”

Anobile created a program called Lifestyle Burning Heart — a plan to reach every home in Arizona with the gospel of Jesus.

Realizing that this program was larger than he originally envisioned, he sought the help of Jason Carlson, Arizona Conference literature evangelism director. Carlson, a young man of deep spiritual conviction, leads a team of young workers who have been very successful distributing truth-filled literature throughout Arizona. Anobile passed the torch of leadership to Carlson who eagerly accepted the responsibility.

On November 14, 2010, Lifestyle Burning Heart was officially launched. Plans included team participants working together to reach every person in Arizona through the unity of Christ-centered ministries — and to actually knock on every door in the state.

To begin Lifestyle Burning Heart, the Arizona Conference has initiated 40 days of prayer and study of the Bible for its members. Participants are following the book 40 Days: Prayers And Devotions To Prepare For The Second Coming, by Dennis Smith.

At the end of the 40 days, training seminars will begin, to train and equip members for service in God’s vineyard. These training seminars will include several components: literature evangelism, medical missionary work, Bible work, and Good-NewsTV. Central to the training is teaching participants how to have a strong prayer and devotional life.

During the next year, seminars will take place at least four times in different locations throughout the conference. Even though a member will specialize in one area of ministry during these seminars, they will be encouraged to attend the basic training of each ministry. This will create an atmosphere of our ministries working together instead of working independently.

“Some are tempted to think that our vision is too big,” says Carlson. “They wonder how we can reach every person in Arizona with only 20% or less of our members currently doing most of the work — not to mention all of the differences of opinion on how to do the work and the discussion that goes with it. The truth is, if we look at it this way, the dissidents are right. It is impossible to reach every person in Arizona if we are to do the work ourselves.”

“The success of Lifestyle Burning Heart,” Carlson continues, “is dependent upon a revival in our hearts and a reformation in our lives. We must give up our selfishness, pride, and slothfulness and all other sins that plague us. This can only be accomplished by the power of the Holy Spirit. We can expect such a revival and reformation only by spending much time in humble prayer and searching of the scriptures.”
This winter construction crews at Pacific Union College put the finishing touches on a renovation of the campus’s dining commons and campus center. This facility, a major hub of student life, hasn’t been updated in 30 years. This update is the first of a wave of improvements around campus as President Heather J. Knight seeks to transform the college into a shining example of modern higher education.

“PUC is going to become a great college,” says Knight. “When I think about our campus going from good to great, I’m including every area of campus, including our facilities. My vision is that within the next several years the entire campus will be transformed.”

The new design incorporates Napa Valley style, a rustic yet contemporary aesthetic based on open spaces and natural materials like wood and stone. Project architect Jarrod Denton, a PUC alumnus, replaced the basic tables and chairs of the dining commons seating area with several unique and inviting sections, including rows of booths, raised pub-style tables, and an informal lounge furnished with sofas. The serving area was also reworked to improve students’ access to the food and reduce congestion during busy meal times.

The campus center, which serves as the recreational heart of PUC and the home of the student association offices, received a new professional-grade food and drink preparation area and a small convenience store. Walls were knocked down to expand the area, and all the furniture was replaced to give the space the fresh and modern feel of a smoothie bar. New paint and flooring was applied throughout the whole facility, matching the dining commons and campus center with a common visual theme.

The students have overwhelmingly approved the changes to the facility. “I like the new layout of the food area, and the booths are a real nice touch!” says junior exercise science major Uzzie Barba. “It creates a much more inviting space for the students to enjoy,” says senior history major Eirene-Gin Nakamura. “Aesthetically, it’s just much better,” agrees senior communication and theology major Aren Rennacker.

But the renovation is about more than just boosting morale. Knight believes that PUC’s special mission as a Christian institution holds the college to a special standard. “The Bible and Spirit of Prophecy enjoin us to be ’the head and not the tail,’” she says. “We are called to a really high level of excellence based on the exceeding excellence of God Himself. Therefore, we have an important role to play as pacesetters and models of best practices in higher education.” At PUC even the simple question of where students take their meals and study breaks receives that kind of attention.
Ramiro Cano Elected President of Central California Conference

Caron Oswald

Ramiro Cano, executive secretary of the Central California Conference since 2004, was elected president on November 21. Cano succeeds Jerry Page, who was president for 15 years.

“This is extremely humbling. I solicit your prayers now more than ever,” Cano told the executive committee members.

Cano joined the conference team in 1997 as senior pastor of the Milpitas Church, which later became a district that included Cambrian Park, Los Gatos and San Jose Central churches. He also served as associate executive secretary from 2001 to 2003.

He first began in ministry as a lay pastor in Reserve, New Mexico, in 1989. In 1993 Cano was called to full-time ministry in the Texas Conference, where he served as pastor of two districts until 1997.

Prior to ministry, Cano worked in the corporate arena as manager of systems and programming for ARCO Transportation Company and director of information services for Syncor International. He later taught at Western New Mexico University.

His family immigrated to the U.S. from Colombia, South America, when Cano was a young boy.

He grew up in Southern California with his eye firmly on the American dream. “I never had my sights on being called to serve as a pastor,” Cano says. “Certainly not a conference president!”

Cano gives God all the glory for “the myriad experiences and the many people that have served to shape the person I am today.”

He and Mary Ellen Marin have been married for 38 years. They have three children and six grandchildren. All three adult children live in central California. Their daughter teaches in an Adventist school, one son is a pastor and the youngest son is a fireman and graphic arts designer. All three graduated from Adventist universities.

“I am someone who is most comfortable staying in the background,” says Mary Ellen Cano. “From the beginning of Ramiro’s call to ministry, my prayer has been, ‘Lord, help me be always willing to do whatever you want me to do.’”

The Selection Process

Ricardo Graham, Pacific Union Conference president, led the 28 CCC executive committee members, plus an additional 16 delegates chosen from the eight conference areas, during the search and selection process. “I am stunned at the spiritual process by Ricardo,” says Gerson Perla, a Bay Area delegate. “The grace and spiritual direction were amazing!”

Four town hall meetings were held in September to solicit input from church members and pastors. Detailed notes of characteristics and qualities desired in the new president were taken, as well as names of 61 candidates.

The criteria gathered at the town halls were used as the reference tool. “Every comment was written down. We represented the people in every way,” Perla explains about the constituents’ input. The 44 search committee members were divided into groups of four. Each small group was assigned names and given one month to vet the candidates.

“It was obvious to me that the Holy Spirit was with us. All of the candidates were examined very carefully, with a good spirit,” says Norma Maynez, delegate from the Fresno area. “Once we got to the very last vote, we felt this was the person God wanted for the conference at this time.”

Ramiro and Mary Ellen Cano. Ramiro is the new president of the Central California Conference.
Pastor Dan MacLafferty’s ah-ha moment came as an answer to a prayer: “Lord, what have you dreamed up for children?” His church sponsored wonderful programs for kids of various ages and parents gratefully dropped off their children for the activities. Yet, something kept bothering him.

The answer finally came: “Dan, you are not discipling the children.” Thus began K.I.D.S. in Discipleship, a new paradigm for families where parents are connected spiritually with their children, where parents are the moral and spiritual mentors of their children. The program spotlights children from ages 4 to 13, and their parents. Interested church members are more than welcome, too.

Twelve churches sent teams of four or more participants to the three-day K.I.D.S. University training held in Clovis, Calif., on November 7-9, 2010. Team members included the pastor, parents, children’s division leaders, and interested members.

“I believe it will help strengthen our families and our churches, that we will have spiritual growth and numeric growth too. It is discipleship at its best!” says Santa Maria Pastor Jose Vasquez about the K.I.D.S. program.

Each team left with an action plan and a timeline which included a series of sermons on the importance of family, the selection of 10 small group leaders, a 12-week parenting/mentoring program for parents and interested church members. In fact, the goal is for the entire church to be trained so everyone knows how to disciple the children of the church.

“The 12-week program helps the parents and mentors fall in love with Jesus. The foundation is falling in love with Jesus,” says Rosa Gillham, conference children’s ministries director.

Next comes a 24-week small group for parents and their children that meets once a week for one hour. Each family goes home with interactive family worship ideas and additional activities for the coming week.

“As a parent I need to know what my children are thinking and this is going to help me know how to get closer, with interactive worship and fun, so they can talk to me and I can talk to them,” says Gillham. “The parents become disciple-makers, then the children become disciple-makers. Parenting/mentoring at home produces children who want to share Jesus.”

“K.I.D.S. provides a structured ministry designed to provide parents with tools and skills that will assist them in raising spiritual giants,” says Steve Horton, vice president of church ministries for the conference. “Participants kept telling me, ‘Praise the Lord for a definite plan we can follow!’”

Did you know…

- that by their mid-20s, at least 50 percent of Adventist young people in North America have left the church? (Why Teenagers Leave the Church, Roger Dudley)
- that by age 13 a person’s spiritual identity is largely set in place for the rest of his or her life? (Barna Research Group)
- that most parents abdicate responsibility for their children’s moral and spiritual development to someone else?
Karen Houghton never dreamed that her personal interest in health would one day lead to a 224-page, full-color cookbook and a television ministry with a potential audience of millions. Today she hosts “Naturally Gourmet,” a cooking program on the Hope Channel, and is the author of a plant-based cookbook by the same title. Karen’s ministry began forming when she learned that health has its own recipe. She decided everyone should know about it.

Karen’s interest in health began when, at age 16, she went away to academy.

“I never really enjoyed eating meat,” Karen recalls. “So I decided to quit eating it, since they didn’t serve it anyway. I never missed it!” That was the beginning of her journey toward a healthier life, but there were still more changes ahead.

In college, she learned from one of her professors, Charlotte Hamlin, how to make good bread and other simple foods that help to prevent disease. Those nutrition classes at Andrews University made a lasting impression on her.

After graduating with a degree in nursing, Karen moved back to Wisconsin, where she worked as a home health nurse. Around that time, her father developed type 2 diabetes and attended the NEWSTART® program at Weimar Institute in California. The changes Karen saw in her dad were impressive. He lost weight, felt better, and was able to stop taking his medication. That experience further convinced Karen that diet and exercise are part of the recipe for good health.

Karen especially remembers the day she attended an ASI convention seminar by Mark Finley. It was called “Making Friends for God.” After the seminar, she felt compelled to share her knowledge with others. Her first step was to make a positive dietary change in her own life — to a plant-based, dairy-free diet. She immediately felt better physically.

Next, she held a health seminar in the fellowship hall at her church — and 90 people showed up, most of them from the community. It was at that point that Karen began stepping out of her comfort zone.

“I really didn’t feel I was a public speaker,” Karen says, “but I knew that with God, ‘all things are possible.’”

Karen vividly remembers one woman in particular who attended the seminar. A week after the first lecture on the importance of exercise and a healthy breakfast, the woman returned to class and asked if she could share her experience. Prior to the class, the woman’s family had never eaten breakfast and had formed the habit of sleeping in every day as long as possible. Then they would race off to school and to work. After hearing about the benefits of breakfast and exercise, the entire family began to get up early, take a walk, and then eat a big breakfast. After making these changes, they were amazed at how much better they felt and how much more energy they all had. She
said her family members felt like they were actually living again.

Over the years, Karen has continued teaching others about healthful living and has watched with satisfaction as people have reaped the benefits of their new lifestyles. Of course, when you’re teaching others about a healthful diet, “the proof is in the pudding.” It’s one thing to talk about change, but it’s another to actually get people to make those changes and stick to them. Karen’s philosophy is that food should taste good and be healthy at the same time.

“When you’re raising two sons, taste is everything,” she says emphatically. Through her cooking classes, Karen has had the opportunity to demonstrate her favorite recipes, many of which she has adapted from not-so-healthy versions of popular foods. It was only natural that she would one day publish a cookbook of her own — something she’d been planning for a long time.

When the Hope Channel invited Karen to create a cooking show, that invitation provided the stimulus she needed to fast-forward the launch of her Naturally Gourmet cookbook. It came off the press last May, and she has been receiving positive responses ever since. For some of the recipes, or to purchase a copy of the cookbook, visit www.NaturallyGourmet.com.

Karen, who is health ministries director of the Fallbrook church, continues to hold local health seminars, generally attracting an audience of anywhere from 90 to 130 people each time. But in April, her ministry coverage expanded worldwide with the launch of “Naturally Gourmet” on the Hope Channel. During the show, Karen demonstrates how to prepare healthy foods, while co-host Dr. Wes Youngberg, director of the wellness program at the Rancho Family Medical Group in Temecula, describes their health benefits.

Although ministry success can’t be measured by size or numbers, Karen gains satisfaction from knowing her efforts are impacting many people’s lives in positive ways. It all starts, she says, with a tablespoon of conviction and a cup of knowledge, mixed thoroughly with God’s blessing and clear guidance.

“Over the years I can say that the Lord has never let me down,” says Karen. “If you take that step in faith and trust Him, He will come through for you.”

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Sikh Nurse Joins Adventist Church

Keith Dobbs

It was the American dream for Gurpreet Malhi’s family. At the age of 10, the curious brown-eyed girl left Punjab, India, with a parent holding each hand and her older brother following behind them. It was 1995 and they were bound for the promised land of California.

Her family was Sikh and her grandmother had taught her to pray and read the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the ten successive gods. Sikhism is the fifth-largest organized religion in the world.

As she progressed through high school and college, she recalls, “I just kept getting more and more confused with so many different gods to worship.”

Divine Appointment

Several years later, Mahli had a bachelor’s degree in nursing, but no real plans for a job, as the economy had spiraled downward. She heard the same resounding message: No one wants to hire a new graduate nurse.

Her full-time occupation became looking online for nursing jobs. Her letters, applications and inquiry calls went unanswered. In frustration, she prayed to her gods and applied for a job with Versant RN Residency, a placement program for recently graduated registered nurses.

Within days, Mahli received an invitation for a Versant open house at Ukiah Valley Medical Center, an Adventist Health hospital located three hours from her home. Gurpreet learned that the program had eight openings and 180 applicants. She felt blessed to have been chosen.

“We are fortunate to be able to hire someone such as Mahli who has diverse views and such a spirit of compassion and care,” says Terry Burns, president and CEO of Ukiah Valley Medical Center.

Godly Discovery

Shortly after she arrived at Ukiah to start the residency program, Mahli was befriended by Douglas Houghton, the recruiter for UVMC, and Adrienne Horton, another young person in the community.

“They talked about this person named Jesus,” says Mahli. Little did she know that He had big plans for her.

One Friday night, Mahli called Houghton to ask what they were going to do on Saturday. He told her that he was going to church.

“Perfect. I’ll go with you. I need to pray,” responded Mahli.

After she had invited herself, Mahli was a little apprehensive as this would be her first visit to a church in her 15 years of living in the U.S. She had attended only Sikh temples.

She spent that Sabbath at the Ukiah Seventh-day Adventist Church where she heard others talking about Jesus. Through continued invitations to church, Mahli kept hearing about Jesus and John 3:16, the text that everyone seemed to know by heart.

“Who was this God that gave His only son for me? For my sins?” she wondered.
She started Bible studies with a church member but it was difficult for her to understand. That’s when Houghton gave her a special Bible that Mahli called a “simple Bible” with easy-to-understand words. It was there that she read the scripture in John 3:16 for herself, and understood it.

“Everything just stopped. My heart skipped a beat. I was in tears when I realized that Jesus had done this for me. I couldn’t ignore Him if He’d done this for me.”

**Barriers in the way**

She struggled with how to tell her parents about the new revelations she’d just experienced and her decision to be baptized. She didn’t want to hurt them or be disowned. Numerous trips to visit her parents were unsuccessful as the timing never seemed right.

In July, after much contemplation, Mahli wrote a letter to her parents and left it under their pillows. After she left their home, she called to tell them to read the letter. Silence — dead silence — for weeks. She tried calling both home and cell numbers, but they wouldn’t answer her calls or return the messages.

Mahli showed her friend the copy of the letter that she’d written to her parents. The two prayed to God and asked the Holy Spirit to help her family understand her decision to be baptized.

Minutes after the prayer, Mahli received a call from her brother. However, it wasn’t the news she wanted to hear. He said she should quit her job and leave Ukiah — the family would pay the $5,000 to break her contract with Versant. The family also decided that Mahli should get married, and could even select her own husband if she’d give up the thoughts of being baptized as a Christian.

“At this stage in my life, I didn’t want to get married to anyone except my Savior and Lord,” recalls Mahli.

During the next few days, Mahli continued to wrestle with her family’s desires to remove her from the life that had exposed her to the real God. Her friend Houghton kept telling her, “Satan will always put something in your way.”

**“He Isn’t Finished With Me Yet”**

The next weekend, Mahli and some friends attended a series of meetings where Ivor Meyers, pastor of the Templeton Seventh-day Adventist Church, was speaking. She was tired from working the night shifts on the med-surg unit and kept dozing off during most of his seminars.

“Something woke me up during the last two minutes of Pastor Meyers’ sermon, in time to hear him say Satan would always be putting up barriers,” she recalls.

God had given her the answer: Satan was using her family as a barrier. She made her decision to be baptized whether or not her family blessed it. Strong in her convictions, Mahli gave her parents the date, time and location for her baptism with an invitation to come celebrate with her.

On October 30, she was baptized — without her parents there to witness it. However, there were tears of excitement from her new church family as they heard her testimony and watched her make a fresh start in the hands of her Heavenly Father.

“God isn’t finished with me yet,” says Mahli. “I know He’s going to use me to be a witness to my family. I’m a John 3:16 nurse.”
Church Hosts Family-Focused Evangelism

Rogelio Paquini

In October the Spanish-American Church in Los Angeles conducted an innovative evangelistic series based on marriage, family and relationships, entitled “Love for a Lifetime.” Senior Pastor Rogelio Paquini was the speaker.

“We have never experienced anything like this before,” said Alfredo Ramirez, first elder. Our church had witnessed baptisms, weddings and even marital vow renewal ceremonies; but never had they been all at the same time. The purpose of the event was to bring not only spiritual healing to the people, but also to heal their marriages and families. If the family is healthy, the church is healthy and if the church is healthy, the community is also.”

Paquini adds, “When Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden, God had longed for them to share a love that was for eternity. Unfortunately, because of sin, relationships among all creatures deteriorated. Nevertheless, God’s desire still is the same: He wants all of his creatures to enjoy everlasting love with each other and with Him.”

Following the baptisms, members had the opportunity to witness a double wedding for newly baptized members Paulino and Vianey Mendez and Raul and Claudia Rojas. After accepting Jesus through baptism, both couples solemnized their decisions to receive the Lord’s blessing in marriage. Along with them, more than 50 other previously married couples — members of the church and friends — renewed their marriage vows. “Now I am whole,” commented Claudia Rojas with joy.

The pastor noted that the purpose of the series had been to bring healing and encouragement to the families in the church’s spiritual community, but God had more amazing plans. “This event was historic,” Hilda Carranza, who led the Bible-training team, said. “Not only was it a blessing to our new members, but it also brought revival to our church and has moved other couples in similar situations to receive God’s blessing in their home.”

For several months previous to the series, a well equipped and dedicated team of people worked hard to prepare friends though Bible studies and witnessing. Their efforts resulted in 25 people giving their lives to Jesus though baptism. This event marked the first time that this many people had been baptized at once in the church.

After the service, several other couples began making arrangements for marriage in order to be baptized in the near future. The team of instructors is working hard with several other friends and interests in preparation for the next event.

From left: Claudia and Raul Rojas, Pastor Rogelio Paquini, Vianey and Paulino Mendez.
Van Nuys Saturday Night Series Attracts and Nurtures

Betty Cooney

After he arrived at his new church, Pastor John Aitken and the Van Nuys church board took a hard look at how to reach out evangelistically. Knowing commuters’ work schedules, Aitken suggested Saturday night evangelistic meetings, a schedule that had worked well for his church in Manhattan. “Let’s give it a try,” agreed Head Elder Gerry Moss. The board agreed, and the experiment began.

“Buried Blueprints,” a 10-week series, focused on the Bible from an archaeological viewpoint. Aitken illustrated his presentations with artifacts from his collection. The meetings started with nearly a full house, and audiences grew as word of mouth attracted additional people.

Prayer teams prayed each night before and during the meetings. After the meetings, visitors enjoyed refreshments in the fellowship hall, where Mavis Shakespeare and her team created a pleasant and relaxed atmosphere for guests and church members to get acquainted.

Aitken says that the use of innovative still and moving graphics of biblical archaeology has proved to be the most effective evangelism in his ministry. “Utilizing Natural Church Growth principles, Bible studies, church attendance and involvement have been keys to procuring and retaining new members,” he says.

“I give people plenty of opportunity to tell me they want to be baptized,” Aitken said. “When they do make their decision, they often tell me how much they appreciated not being pressed for the decision. And I’ve found,” he notes, “that those are the ones who stay.

“Buried Blueprints’ is a nurturing series,” Aitken explains. “From these meetings, we are nurturing about 30 individuals. They are starting to come to church, we are befriending them, and they are becoming a part of the church family.”

Many participants commented at the meetings’ conclusion that they wished the meetings could continue because they liked coming there on Saturday nights.” A Saturday-evening Daniel and Revelation Seminar is planned for the spring of 2011.

Before “Buried Blueprints,” Simon Star was researching religion online. Recognizing that he agreed with certain Seventh-day Adventists beliefs, he looked for an Adventist church near him. Ruth and her husband Ely Dela Cruz invited him to attend.

“When the series was announced,” Ruth Ely said, “we invited Simon. Our church is a very warm, international congregation, and many other members joined us in welcoming him warmly. He had many questions about the Bible and soon asked Pastor Aitken for Bible studies. On the series’ final evening, Simon came forward, dedicating his life to Christ and requesting baptism.

“We believe Simon and others were providentially directed to the church,” Ruth adds. “Seeing how God led reminded all of us how important it is for the church to welcome visitors. That friendship keeps people coming back.”
Adventist Education Featured in National Media

La Sierra University’s groundbreaking CognitiveGenesis Project is featured in the Christian Science Monitor, in an opinion-editorial piece submitted by CognitiveGenesis project director, Dr. Elissa Kido. The piece deals with the importance of holistic education and the Adventist denomination’s commitment to generating students who are well rounded academically, spiritually and physically.

This research and analysis project spanned four years and involved tests and surveys of 51,706 students in 935 K-12 Adventist schools across the North American Division. Over the past few months, the positive results of this unprecedented study have been shared with segments of the global Adventist community. Dr. Kido’s piece, which follows, has introduced the public to the broader benefits of a Seventh-day Adventist education.

“For Real Education Reform, Take a Cue From the Adventists”

Education reform has taken center stage lately as Americans struggle to close the oft-condemned achievement gap. But quietly in our midst, the second largest Christian school system in the world has been steadily outperforming the national average — across all demographics.

The Seventh-Day Adventists’ holistic curriculum serves as a model for how to overcome that gap — the disparity in academic performance between low-income and minority students and their peers in higher-income communities. But even more, it shows how to narrow the gap between mind, body, and spirit, truly educating students for success.

Now, I’m not advocating for religious instruction to be included in school curricula. Rather, what my research indicates is that holistic learning — an education that doesn’t erect artificial barriers among disciplines and between mind, body, and spirit — does indeed result in greater student achievement.

Adventist Schools Outperform Their Peers

Since 2006, as part of the CognitiveGenesis study, two colleagues and I have gathered data on more than 50,000 students enrolled in Seventh-Day Adventist schools. (Unbeknownst to many, the Adventist church runs a Christian school system second only in size to the Roman Catholic parochial schools.) While we have long believed in the effectiveness of the holistic approach Adventist schools take, we wanted to quantify, empirically, how well students in Adventist schools perform.

Even we were surprised by the results. Our four-year, independently financed study showed that students at Adventist schools outperformed their peers at the national average in every subject area.

Between 2006 and 2010, my colleagues and I analyzed test scores of 51,706 students, based on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills for Grades 3-8, the Iowa Test of Educational Development for Grades 9 and 11, and the Cognitive Abilities Test for all grades, as well as surveys completed by students, parents, teachers, and school administrators.

In each subject category, students attending Adventist schools scored higher than the national average. They also scored higher than their expected achievement based on assessment of individual ability — a factor few other schools measure.

One of our most dramatic findings is that students who transferred to Adventist schools saw a marked improvement in academic
achievement. The more years a student attended an Adventist school, the more his or her performance improved.

**Socioeconomic Status and Funding Aren’t Factors**

A skeptic might argue that private schools such as those run by the Adventists are made up primarily of wealthy, white, upper-middle-class students, hence the reason for higher achievement. Not so.

Our research shows the demographics of Adventist schools are closer to those of public schools, with high economic and socioeconomic diversity. Enrollment is open, meaning students are admitted without the kind of screening for ability that many other private schools employ. In North America, the Adventist church runs almost 1,000 schools, many of which are small and rural. We found no relationship between the size of the school that students attended and achievement.

Significantly, in this time of decreasing budgets for public schools, we found no link between per-pupil spending and student achievement. Research by Dave Lawrence, a graduate student at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif., indicates that students at Adventist schools that spend as little as $2,000 to $4,000 per pupil are roughly at the same achievement level as students in schools that spend as much as $12,000 per student. Mr. Lawrence found no significant correlation between a school’s budget and student achievement.

**The Advantages of a Holistic Approach**

So how do we account for the Adventist advantage? We believe it lies in the holistic approach these schools take — a commitment to educating mind, body, and spirit. Unlike public schools, Adventist schools across the country have a standard curriculum. It includes the traditional “three R’s” along with emphasis on spiritual and physical development. There’s a coherence and a connectedness between Adventist schools that doesn’t often exist in other systems.

Some of the biggest predictors for student achievement, according to statistical models we developed, include whether students have a positive spiritual outlook, have a healthy relationship with their parents, and take care of their own health. These are all attitudes that can be cultivated, and they point to the importance of a holistic approach to education.

In recent years, the Adventist church has been the subject of much public fascination because of its focus on health, longevity, and wholeness. (PBS ran a documentary earlier this year [2010], “The Adventists,” and the book “The Blue Zones” came out in 2008.) But our research shows that Adventist education can also be a learning lab, showing how K-12 students nationwide can excel beyond expectations.

True reform of the public school system will take hard work and innovation, but the Adventists provide a model that can help reformers hit the “reset” button. Eliminating artificial barriers between subjects and helping students see the link between how they live and how they learn are first, but crucial, steps in laying the foundation for true reform.
Prisoner Becomes Evangelist

Barbara Herlan

Born 66 years ago in Los Angeles, Bill Church lived most of his life in Southern California. As a troubled youth, Church found himself in and out of juvenile detention facilities and, later, in a jail cell.

After moving to Las Vegas in 1975, at the height of the cocaine and amphetamine craze, Church’s involvement in motorcycle gangs included buying drugs from the Hell’s Angels and selling them to other biker gangs. In 1977 Church plead guilty to selling drugs and was given a 20-year sentence. But in Nevada State Prison Church’s life changed when he began to study the Bible. Various church groups visited the prisoners regularly, and one group, The Heaven Bound Singers, sang and gave Bible studies to those interested.

Church well remembers the difficulty he faced telling other prisoners about his newfound interest in spiritual things: “You have to remember that bikers in those days were mostly Aryan Brotherhood, white supremacists,” he says. “They hated everyone, so it was no easy thing to talk about Jesus to a bunch like that. Mostly they ignored me.”

After three years in prison, Church decided to be baptized — in the Carson City church, which he had never attended. The warden laughed at the idea, but Bill continued to pray and his persistence paid off. The warden finally permitted him to go to the church for baptism, accompanied by two prison guards. This was Church’s first time inside the walls of an Adventist church.

From that day, Church says, the Lord opened amazing opportunities. First he was sent to a fire camp, then to a Restitution Center in Reno, then to work for Art Wilson, head elder of the church. Church’s minimum sentence was seven to 10 years, but after three years he was released.

But that is not the end of Church’s story of rescue and redemption. Since leaving prison he has been very involved in prison ministry. Currently, as elder in charge of evangelism for the Hilo church, he has a passion for a new ministry opportunity.

Hilo’s local Christian radio station, KCIF (Keep Christ In Focus) 90.3 FM, invited local churches to present a program involving youth. Church told them the youth of the Hilo church were interested, so the station gave him his choice of days for the broadcast. Church chose Sabbath.

At the first Sabbath broadcast, Church invited Joey Freitas, the Mauna Loa school principal, and two students to join him. The following week he took a few more with him, and now, Church says, “We get a room full of young people wanting to talk about Jesus and what He is doing in their lives. And other young people from the community call in to ask questions about Bible topics, or talk about the challenges they face being Christians.”

Excitement bubbles up among the youth of the Hilo church as they take an active role every Sabbath from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. on the “Youth for Jesus” broadcasts, singing, playing instruments and giving their testimonies for Jesus.

“Uncle Bill,” as he is known to the young people, has come full circle from prisoner to evangelist. He continues to share the good news of Jesus every opportunity he gets, whether on the radio, as chaplain of a local motorcycle club, as witnessing leader in his church, or as a productive member of his family and community. But the young people are especially dear to his heart. As Church says it, “The main thing is to encourage our young people to be active and involved. I love to hear the gentle and genuine praises of the children to the Savior, their beloved Jesus.”
New beginnings are, for the most part, good. A new job, a new school year, new challenges that will inspire people to do great things are all positive.

But new beginnings can be difficult, too. Some will begin this year remembering a family member who has passed away. Others will find themselves moving to a new town where they don't know anyone. Still others will begin the year with difficult problems and concerns.

Of course, a new year brings with it endless possibilities — including a new opportunity to strengthen our relationship with God. As I reflect on my life, I am so glad that God loves me unconditionally and gives me new opportunities every day. I don't have to be perfect, I just have to be willing to let God lead me.

What a relief!

I think of King David. Talk about a dysfunctional person with a messed up family! From a human perspective, David made horrific mistakes that would seem to all but count him out when it comes to eternity. But Luke wrote that David was a man after God's own heart. (Acts 13:22)

Why? Remember David's plea, "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." (Psalm 51:10) David wanted all that but he made mistakes — big ones. He owned up to them and tried to correct his ways so God could use him for His honor and glory.

I want David's plea to be my plea. I desire for God to create in me a pure heart, which is one of the qualities found in the Beatitudes.

What does it mean to have a pure heart? D. M. Lloyd Jones wrote the following definition: "Blessed are those who are pure, not only on the surface but in the center of their being and at the source of every activity."

— Studies in the Sermon on the Mount

What a great definition. What a goal to strive for — to be pure in everything we think, do and say — to have every thought, action and word be motivated by God. And David understood that this could only come from God. This prompted him to ask God to create a new heart within him.

David also asked God to renew a steadfast or "right" spirit within him. The dictionary defines the word steadfast as "marked by firm determination or resolution; not shakable." A conviction! David wanted to be unshakable in his relationship with God and in his resolve to serve him.

Is that your desire this new year? Do you want to have a pure heart and a steadfast spirit? God will grant us these things and more if you and I ask Him for them.

Most people make New Year's resolutions. Well, I suggest that at the top of the list be the resolution to have God do something that only God can do — change our hearts, our lives and make them pure for Him.

The result? Joy in living for Him and a burning desire to share the great news that He can do this for our family members, neighbors and all with whom we come in contact!
Monte Church, former Native Ministries Coordinator for the North Pacific & Canadian Unions, traveled with his evangelistic team to northern Arizona to conduct evangelistic meetings in Page. The month-long meetings were held in a storefront and were advertised as Angel Seminars because there is a great interest in angels and spirits among Native people.

Church, himself a Native American from the Mahooken Tribe, has worked for many years to reach Native people. He recalls, "Since becoming a Christian and then an Adventist, I have always had a burden for our people of the Menominnie-Stockbridge Indian Reservation in Northern Wisconsin where I spent my childhood. Because my family moved off the reservation in my late teens, we never had a chance to witness of our faith after becoming Adventists."

Church worked with the Voice of Prophecy to create the Native New Day Bible lessons used in preparation for the Page series. Those taking the lessons expressed their thrill to see how genuine Christianity embraces their Native culture.

At the conclusion of the series, 12 were baptized. One of the baptized couples, already Christian believers, plans to work as team leaders in the area.

Another couple, convicted of the truths found in God's Word, decided to be baptized but had not yet been married. On Friday evening, prior to their Sabbath morning baptism, they were married at the conclusion of the meeting. Members presented them with a Navajo cake at the wedding reception.

Bud Joe Haycock, Native American Coordinator for the Arizona Conference, and his wife, Frieda, helped with singing songs and praying in the Navajo language. He says, "We plan a mini-camp meeting on July 1 and 2. Our goal is to have a full-time Bible worker in Page. Allen and Kelly Fowler are doing a tremendous job. But the growing work there could use additional help – and we believe that the Lord will supply the needs in Page."

Currently, church members are meeting in private homes or at the newly constructed Community Center that the Fowlers have worked diligently to construct.

Allen and Kelly Fowler, who have pioneered much of the work in Page, are praying that they can get a well dug on their property so they can
Finally have running water for their family of three children. To them it is not sacrifice. They left a comfortable lifestyle in Tennessee to return to Allen’s Native land where they can be a witness to their families and neighbors.

Arizona Conference Executive Secretary, Dr. Ed Keyes, attended the meetings and was present at the baptism in the chilly waters of the Colorado River. He reports, “There is a wonderful spirit in the group and many more are continuing their studies and hope to be baptized in the future. I commend the dedicated families who give so much and live in some difficult circumstances, sacrificing personal comfort to see that God’s work goes forward. I saw a good spirit, people who were excited about the message and want to spread this Good News to the other members of their nation.”

Evangelistic meetings were advertised as Angel Seminars focusing on Native beliefs regarding spirits and angels.

Peoria/Sun Cities Church Sponsors
Crisis Pregnancy Center Baby Shower

Ladies of the Peoria/Sun Cities Seventh-day Adventist Church recently spent a Sunday afternoon providing a baby shower for the benefit of the Crisis Pregnancy Centers of the Phoenix area. The excitement had been building for several weeks as the women planned the event under the leadership of Noreen Nelson, Marge Zachrisson, Dorie Bietz, and Claire Eva. Several had been involved in making blankets and other items for some time, but when someone thought of the idea of putting on a baby shower, the fun, driven by love and compassion escalated!

Since most of the women in this retirement community are past childbearing age, the planning and shopping became a rejuvenating experience, certainly so by the time of the shower. The hall was buzzing as many tables were loaded with baby items.

The Crisis Pregnancy Centers of Greater Phoenix, a non-profit organization, was founded in 1982 with the vision of serving the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of women and families who are in crisis because of an unplanned pregnancy. It has grown to four centers in the Phoenix area without government participation and has become one of the largest of its kind in the nation. Lorraine Robbins, Center Director for the Glendale facility spoke to the group. Last year about 12,000 young ladies in crisis came to the Phoenix area centers for help, 6,000 just to the Glendale facility – some as young as 12 years of age.

Many came and were blessed, so much so that it is being planned as an annual event. What a satisfying and thrilling way to “brighten the corner where you are!”

The abundance of gifts for Crisis Pregnancy included homemade blankets and other lovely baby items.
A New Church Home in Scottsdale

A church on the campus of Thunderbird Adventist Academy (TAA) had been a dream for over thirty years, and was finally realized with the grand opening of the Scottsdale-Thunderbird Seventh-day Adventist Church on May 15, 2010.

“The original master plan for the Academy actually included a church site,” said Jay Warren, pastor of the new church, “but it’s taken a number of years to actually do the building. We started a year ago with the first turning of dirt.”

The building was designed by Architect George Melara, a member of the Scottsdale-Thunderbird church, and built under the direction of contractor Richard Hensel of New Mexico. Dr. Leo Herber, also of Scottsdale-Thunderbird church, was the project manager and spent many hours making sure everything was built to specs.

The new building can seat 470, but the design is such that everyone is close to the pulpit. The sanctuary gives a feeling of being ‘homey.’ And yet the pulpit and stage can accommodate the entire TAA choir and band for special performances.

The youth are a big part of the services, and often share in the programs – speaking, music, offering and prayer.

“The school chapel is where we had met for services before the new church was built,” said TAA Chaplain, Robbie Parrish. “This worked out okay, but the chapel was used for both spiritual and secular programs. Now we really appreciate a worship center.”

Plans for future community outreach include a Neil Nedley Depression seminar in February 2011, evangelistic meetings in the fall, and the Daniel Challenge, a health-related program.

Pastor Warren and the expanding congregation extend a warm welcome to visitors and anyone looking for a church home.

Constituency Session Countdown...

With our Constituency Session coming up October 2, I want to devote something about it in our Arizona Conference insert in the Recorder every other month.

I will be sharing information about the Session, reports from our directors, and reports as to our progress during the last four years.

This will be our 29th Session. Due to our membership growth, we will have more than 500 delegates and will move the meeting from Thunderbird Adventist Academy to the Camelback church.

At the Constituency Session we will receive reports, elect Conference Officers, Departmental Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and transact any other business that may properly come before the delegates in session.

Tony Anobile
President
The process for acquiring a new conference office building for Nevada-Utah began at the Conference Constituency Session held in May of 2010.

At that time, conference delegates voted to give authority to the Conference Executive Committee and Association Board to investigate a move for the conference office building.

Conditions at the existing 54-year-old building have been slowly deteriorating requiring much more maintenance and repairs in recent years. In addition, the building is inefficient to operate and does not meet ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

The new proposed Nevada-Utah Conference office building in South Reno.

The expanding warm welcome community of Reno February would require a Special Constituency Session. Relocation in the Reno area would only require a vote by the Conference Executive Committee and Association Board.

Equipment, furnishings and personnel outside the Reno area would require a vote by the Conference Executive Committee and Association Board. Geographic data, prices of relocation options, and financial implications were presented to committee members. Geographic data, discussion abounded and excitement began to mount as the joint committee realized that acquisition of and relocation to a new conference office building was possible.

Discussion abounded and excitement began to mount as the joint committee realized that acquisition of and relocation to a new conference office building was possible.

The new proposed Nevada-Utah Conference office building in South Reno.

After considerable discussion, it was determined that the best option was relocation to a beautiful, existing, 6-year-old building in a South Reno office park, made extremely...
affordable by a downturn in the economy and the need of the seller for a quick sale. At that time, the entire joint committee traveled to the site to examine the building.

Upon return to the recessed meeting, more discussion, and then a motion to move forward to buy the building just visited. Before a vote was taken, however, a season of prayer ensued amongst all committee members and administration. Guidance from God was earnestly sought for the doors to be opened and closed in accordance with God’s will.

After the prayer, a vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Now, steps will be immediately taken to finalize the offer and begin a period of due diligence prior to a quick closing. Following closing, some minor renovations will be undertaken, and then final relocation to the new office will be a reality!

Many options for the existing, older conference building remain on the table and will be explored in the ensuing months.

The Nevada-Utah Conference family is certainly in God’s providence as He is seen leading in the work of the conference. Just think! If God can work His way with buildings, think what He can do for His people!

**$1 Per Day Challenge**

**for Nevada-Utah Conference Members in 2011!**

**Why the challenge?**

The Nevada-Utah Conference depends on its **Conference Advance** offerings to adequately accomplish its mission in the Nevada-Utah Conference territory. Unfortunately, this conference-wide offering has been suffering significant annual downturns in recent years.

**What is Conference Advance?**

Conference Advance is an offering that Nevada-Utah Conference members give along with their Tithe, Local Church Budget, and World Budget offerings.

The Conference Advance offering is designed to give a significant boost to tithe that comes to the conference. Approximately 40% of the tithe coming to the Nevada-Utah Conference is sent up to the Pacific Union Conference and “higher up” organizations. However, 100% of the Conference Advance offerings stay right in the Nevada-Utah territory.

Both the sacred tithe and Conference Advance funds are important to the Nevada-Utah Conference, and members are encouraged to be faithful to both.

**Where does Conference Advance go?**

It helps the Nevada-Utah Conference witness to the world!


world! It’s a pretty simple formula!

- 25% to Nevada-Utah Conference Evangelism
- 25% to Nevada-Utah Conference Adventist School operations
- 25% to Nevada-Utah Conference Capital Fund

There’s another need, too!

The Nevada-Utah Conference does not have a summer camp for the benefit of its youth, and it desperately needs one! Our young people are too important to be without one. A summer camp would also benefit our churches and members who may use such a place for retreats and special meetings. Unfortunately, there is no funding for a summer camp without the sacrificial giving of the Nevada-Utah Conference Church Family to a special Summer Camp Development Fund.

$250,000 is the goal for 2011!

Sounds like a lot, doesn’t it. But it really isn’t! Not if you, your church member friends, and others all around the Nevada-Utah Conference do their part.

Could it be $1 per day? Why not? If one is committed to a worthy cause — and isn’t our witness to the world a worthy cause? — finding the $1 per day is simple.

Maybe it’s one less lunch “out” per week. Maybe it’s two or three less beverages purchased each week. Maybe it’s a sacrifice known only to you.

All it takes is little sacrifices and we’re there! Can we count on yours?

You might be able to do more than $1 per day. If you can, that’s great! Bring it on!

This year — an extra quarter of a million dollars! Next year, with commitment and passion and God’s help, who knows, it could be a million!

Thank you for doing YOUR part!

Is the $1 Per Day Challenge for you?

Here’s how you do it!

A special $1 per day offering envelope is stapled into this issue of the Recorder — probably just across from where you are reading this!

Please fill it out, stuff your $1 per day into it, and take it to your home church this next Sabbath, or any Sabbath this month.

Then, next month, pick up a new $1 per day envelope at your home church. Fill it out, stuff it with your $1 per day, and turn it in again! Keep doing it every month! It will add up to a big blessing!

Give systematically of ALL your Tithes and Offerings!
www.NUCadventist.com is the NEW Website for Nevada-Utah Conference


The old website address — www.nevadautah.org — did not have any real “Adventist” connection to the conference in its name. However, the new website address — www.NUCadventist.com — clearly connects with and identifies the Nevada-Utah Conference. The new “branding” logo will be featured.

Initially, the new website will have the basics that are on the current website. In the days and weeks after January 10, the new website will be adding many new features that will bring our website more into the digital age. In addition, new content will be appearing on a regular basis.

The new website will also feature a number of interactive opportunities, where site visitors and Nevada-Utah members can communicate with conference administration, various departments, and each other. Blogs will be arriving in the coming months.

Visit our new website often, and discover the new features and content that will make it an indispensable addition to your regular web browsing sites!

Conference Designs and Adopts a New Logo

At the recent Nevada-Utah Conference Executive Committee meeting, December 2, 2010, a new conference logo was unveiled by Denny Krause, Nevada-Utah Conference Communication Coordinator.

As the black cloth covering the new logo was lifted, smiles began to appear and heads started nodding in agreement. A “buzz” in the room was noticeable.

In early September, Nevada-Utah Conference President Larry Unterseher had voiced a desire to have a logo for the conference in an effort to “brand” the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Branding is a way to help identify a company or an organization in such a way that it is easily recognizable to its members or the public. Having a logo is an easy way to create an identity that can be easily remembered by those who see it. Eventually, and with constant repetition, the logo becomes a link that creates a certain bond between people and the organization. That’s what Unterseher wanted for the Nevada-Utah Conference.

After hearing the President’s desires in connection with a conference logo, Krause immediately went to work on the project.

Soon a concept idea of the two states linked together sprinkled with a few lakes was submitted to an internet firm that specializes in cash prize contests to create logos.

In a matter of hours, graphic designers from all over the world began to submit designs in an effort to be the winner and collect the prize. With that, the project was on its way!

A basic design was chosen and then Unterseher, Nevada-Utah Conference Secretary Jason Bergmann, and Krause began the arduous process of refining a design by working with the designer.

In addition, since the Nevada-Utah logo incorporates the trademarked Seventh-day Adventist logo into its design, approvals from the General Conference Legal Department were required.

Finally, the logo details were finished, the design was accepted, and the prize money was paid. Shortly thereafter, the logo in all of its various graphic formats was delivered to Krause, and the Nevada-Utah Conference became the proud new owner of its own logo.

At the December 2 Conference Executive Committee, the logo was voted as the official logo for the Nevada-Utah Conference.

Let the branding begin!
A Firm Foundation in 2011

By Jim Pedersen

The street on which we live has a problem. Much of the pavement seems to be doing just fine — smooth and solid — just as it should be. But there are a few places, including in front of our house, where there are issues. Evidently, through the years, the weight of the garbage trucks that service our homes has caused cracks and dips to develop. It has become more than just an annoyance; it really is a safety issue.

Recently, my wife and I noticed some markings on the street by our house. Multi-colored, spray painted dots, letters and symbols on the street and sidewalk outline the areas where the problems are. Evidently, the street is going to get fixed soon. A solution seems to be in the works.

While the problem may show up on the surface of the street, there is really an underlying issue going on. Something in the road's sub-structure was not properly prepared and now is giving out. So the "repair" of the street has to be more than just a surface one; it has to get down to the foundational problem. Without that, there's not much sense in fixing what's on top. I have great hope that those who will be doing the repairs understand this, and will do the job correctly.

As we begin this New Year, it's no surprise to realize that there's a foundational problem with each of our lives. It's called sin. There are lots of things we can do to fix up our surface appearance. But without getting to the underlying issue, there's not much sense in trying to change what's on the outside. However, a solution has already been put into place, through the Plan of Salvation that was implemented by God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit on our behalf. That solution is ours for the taking, renewable each and every day.

The apostle John says: "Look how much love the Father has showered on us to accept us as His sons and daughters! That's why the world does not accept us, because it hasn't accepted Him. Dear friends, without a doubt we are God's sons and daughters. Although we haven't been told what we'll look like when Christ returns, we know we'll be changed into His likeness. Then we'll see Him as He really is. Everyone who has this hope within him will purify his life, even as Christ is pure" (1 John 3:1-3, The Clear Word).

When we take the foundation of God's love for us, and allow Him to fashion our lives to match His, something beautiful and long lasting begins to take shape. The long-term solution, of course, will be found in the eternity that is being prepared right now for us. But in the meantime, may this New Year find you being transformed and energized by God's Spirit to truly live as one of God's children.

Peace!
The petting zoo attracts attention at ComeHaveFun Day. (Photo: Debbie Simpson)

NCC Small School Students Enjoy ComeHaveFun Day

What do you get when you bring together sixty students and teachers from four small schools, and include sheep, goats, chickens, a llama, a couple of go-karts and some candy bars? You have a ComeHaveFun Day.

The most recent ComeHaveFun Day took place on November 3. Students from Galt Adventist Christian School, Manteca Adventist Christian School, Sutter Hill Adventist School and Tracy SDA Christian Elementary School got together on the Galt campus to worship together and get to know each other in a fun environment.

The ringleader of the event was Jim Pimentel who has served since 2008 as the youth pastor to the 20 small schools—those with one or two teachers—in the Northern California Conference. Ever since he began, he has worked hard to create activities that connect kids to the wider Adventist family of believers outside the local church and school.

“It is our intention to create an environment where students recognize that Adventist education is a large enterprise. Students begin to see that they are part of an important ministry,” said Pimentel.

Seatbelts and helmets make go-karts safe and fun. (Photos: Debbie Simpson)

Kids from Galt Adventist Christian School - Jarey Munoz and Madison Verdin - enjoy the chickens from Leoni Meadows. (Photo: Michael Rosich)

Each ComeHaveFun Day brings together several small schools in a geographic area to foster camaraderie and student-teacher interchange. Both last school year and this school year, Pimentel scheduled five ComeHaveFun Days at various locations around the conference so that every small school could participate in one.

At the recent event, Leoni Meadows Administrative Director Craig Heinrich provided ministry assistance to Pimentel, and also conducted a lively game of candy bar kickball. Leoni Meadows staff members Chris Pappas and Angelica Bolton also helped. Pappas supervised the go-karts, and Bolton stood guard while students interacted with animals from Leoni’s petting zoo. The kids enjoyed eating pizza for lunch.

Each ComeHaveFun Day begins and ends with worship. Pimentel is famous for his lively “Eddie Spaghetti” stories—a continuing series about his early childhood friend—that grab the kids’ attention and emphasize a moral point. “It is imperative that students see a concerted effort to incorporate education with a life-long pursuit of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ,” he said.

Pimentel makes an effort to mix the kids up at these events—no cliques allowed—so students can find out how much they have in common with each other.

“I can see that there are other students like me who are attending Adventist schools,” said Galt Adventist Christian School student Noelle Trant.

“It is always fun to meet other students and to get to know them,” said Manteca Adventist Christian School student Nathan Dowswell.
The Problem with Wills

What should be done with your Will after it is signed? Keep it at home? Leave it with an attorney? Let Uncle Joe guard it? Give it to the executor? Place it in a safe deposit box?

In California, safe deposit boxes are not sealed at death. If there is a co-signer with a key, access will be granted. If the person who brings the key is not a co-signer, but is a relative with an original death certificate, access may be granted with a manager’s approval. If there is no key, no access will be given.

One problem with keeping it at home is finding it when needed. It can be accidentally destroyed, lost or misplaced. If it cannot be found, the legal presumption is the decedent destroyed it prior to death. Wherever it is kept, it is important that the executor and nearest relatives know.

When you have a Will done with the Trust Management Department of the Northern California Conference, the originals are kept in our fireproof vault, and copies are provided to the testators. If you don’t have a Will, deciding where to keep it is obviously not a problem. Not having one is the problem.

Ernie Dobkins, CSPG

www.trustnorthern.org • (925) 685-4300

Want to receive more news from around the Northern California Conference right to your e-mail?

Sign up to receive “The Word on the Street,” NCC President Jim Pedersen’s weekly newsletter e-mailed each Thursday morning.

Each newsletter includes a short devotional; updates from Adventist churches, schools and organizations from around Northern California; and a resources section.

To sign up, just send your e-mail address to info@ncc.adventist.org.
Fun Run Brings Academy and Community Together

On October 31, 2010, the Redwood Adventist Academy Foundation hosted its fourth annual Redwood Fun Run. Every year, this Santa Rosa-based event brings together volunteers, runners, community businesses and the Foundation for an event to benefit the academy and a partner charity. This year’s Fun Run partnered with the Insulindependence organization to raise funds and awareness for their activities in empowering diabetics to reach personal fitness goals.

“It’s a great way to bring together families, friends and our community for fun and fitness” says Carol Gienger, Foundation Director.

The weather cleared up just in time for the 118 registered runners. The course—which started and finished in Julliard Park in downtown Santa Rosa—followed a path along the Santa Rosa Creek greenway for 5 km or 12 km distances (about 3.1 and 7.5 miles).

One fun tradition has developed over the past few years: participants and runners are encouraged to “costume up.” Creative costumes seen this year included “Popeye and Olive Oyl” and a gorilla in a pink shirt!

A team of more than 40 volunteers worked to make the event run smoothly. Some volunteers arrived at 5:30 a.m. to set up booths, the registration area, the start and finish line, timing and record keeping. Another large team of volunteers served as observers all along the race route to cheer on the runners.

Glenda and Larry Purdy, who volunteered to run one of the water stations at the 12k turnaround, found the experience “amazingly peaceful and fun. We enjoyed helping people find their way, cheering them on—all on a beautiful, crisp sunny morning.”

Organizing the Redwood Fun Run requires the coordinated efforts of a dedicated committee of people who work together for about six months prior to the event. “We wanted to have an event that benefitted the school and involved the community, and I’m honored to work on a committee that supports this fun event,” said David Willard, who has been on the working committee since the race’s first year.

The Fun Run organizing committee works together with the City of Santa Rosa, local business sponsors and partner charities. Committee members line up donors and sponsors; handle communications, publicity and registration; and set up a volunteer team to work the day of the event.

The Redwood Adventist Academy Foundation was founded to support students, teachers and facilities at Redwood Adventist Academy. Each year the Foundation organizes various fundraising activities at the academy and in the local community.

By Dean Gienger

Costumes help to make the run fun.

Alexander Selivanoff runs the course.

Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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Hours: 8 a.m.-6 p.m. • Mon-Thu

President, Jim Pedersen • Executive Secretary, Marc Woodson
Treasurer, John Rasmussen

RECODER • January 2011
On Sabbath, November 13, the Sonora Adventist Church held the 10th annual Veterans’ Recognition program. Held during the worship service on the Sabbath nearest Veteran’s Day, guests were treated with special gifts, a guest speaker and lunch.

Leslie Goodwin, a former history teacher at Monterey Bay Academy and WW II veteran, years ago was invited to speak at a service to honor community veterans at the Lemoore Adventist Church.

“I was amazed when I saw the response of the veterans to the service, to the gift they received and the special vegetarian dinner that followed,” Goodwin says. After three years helping at Lemoore, he turned his attention to his own community of Sonora.

Sixty-six veterans attended the first Sonora Veterans’ Recognition program. Jim Harris, retired youth director of the World Church and a WW II POW joined Goodwin in planning the Sabbath program.

Harris designed a medallion as a gift to each veteran that attended the service. The medallion became a “must have” as attendance grew each year. With his health failing, Jim designed two new medallions, the last one he designed from his death bed.

Robert Evans, a Korean veteran, stepped up to lead the recognition program. He designed dog tags with the emblems of the six branches of service and a scripture. This year’s message was John 15:13: “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.” NIV

Through the years, word has spread.

“Please don’t stop this program celebration!” is an ongoing response. For some, the annual Adventist recognition is the first time they have been publically thanked for their sacrifice.

Church member Susette Muth overheard a conversation between two men in a local eatery. “Are you going to the Veterans’ Day program at the Adventist church?” a gentleman asked his friend. “I hadn’t heard about it,” was the reply. “Oh, you should come. It’s really nice and they feed you lunch too.”

“Praise the Lord, there has been three conversions to Jesus Christ because of this program,” says Goodwin. “All three are now asleep waiting for the resurrection.”

**Central Acts**

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**Veterans Honored in Sonora**

by Caron Oswald

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**CALANDAR**

1. 8: New Sabbath School/Church Officers Training/Recognition at the Spanish Church
2. 14-15: Calaveras Summit at the Clovis Church
3. 16: WW Rally at the Fresno Central Church
4. 28-30: Women’s Retreat at the Tenaya Lodge
5. 4-6: Men’s Retreat at Mequel
6. 25: Women’s Retreat at the Tenaya Lodge
7. 11-12: Spiritual Liberty Rally at Fresno Central Church
8. 17-22: Men’s Retreat at BURLINGAME
9. 18-19: Women’s Retreat at Fresno Central Church
10. 27: Day at North Star Ranch

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**By Dean Gile**

**Central Adventist**

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**Newsletter for Central California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**
Weekly Bible Studies Held at Capitola Manor

The weekly Bible study begins with singing and ends with each one around the table - resident and volunteer - sharing prayer requests or answered prayers. “It’s always good to pray for those who really need prayer,” Cathy explains. Eighty-four-year-old Ilene has a burden for the other residents and their need of the gospel. Irma prays for her son to become the spiritual leader of his family. “I am so glad to have this prayer session,” Edna says. “Bless your little hearts.”

Since August 2010, a small group Bible study has happened every Thursday night at the Capitola Manor Convalescent Home. Attendance continues to grow - from the residents, their family members and volunteers from several Santa Cruz Area Adventist churches.

This dynamic outreach is the legacy of former resident Betty Sue Holcomb.

For the last six months of her life, Betty Sue traveled the halls on her walker exclaiming “Praise the Lord!” When she died on July 15, 2010, she was 79 years old and a six-month new Christian.

Her spiritual journey began with a weekly visit by Terry Helton that began in July 2009, who was also on a spiritual journey. Terry had recently moved to Santa Cruz to work with his brother-in-law, Betty Sue’s son. Terry, who was exploring Christianity through the Adventist church, began visiting Betty Sue on Sabbath afternoons.

“Why don’t you share what you are learning,” Betty Sue told him. Terry began taking detailed notes on each Sabbath’s sermon and then presented what he had heard to her that afternoon. And on one January Sabbath afternoon, Betty Sue said, “Terry, I am at the end of my life. I am going to die soon. I want to accept Jesus as my Savior.”

A brand new baptized Adventist Christian himself, Terry was stunned. “It caught me off guard. We hugged and cried. She was the first person I led to Jesus. It was awesome.”

The administrator of Capitola Manor had taken notice and asked Betty Sue, “Who is the guy in the suit? Is he a pastor?”

“Do you think he would give Bible studies here?” Yes he would! The first small group Bible study began in August 2010 with six participants. The second week there were 10 and the third week 16 came. Terry knew he needed help and called for volunteers. Now, members from the Santa Cruz, Soquel and Watsonville churches faithfully volunteer each week.

“I wanted to support Terry,” says Phil Frisbie about assisting with the weekly Bible studies. He enjoys the outreach. “I see my mom in them,” Phil says.

Nine-year-old Delilah Hernandez is the youngest volunteer. “I like reading the Bible and praising the Lord,” she explains. Sebastian Astorga comes “because I love being here.” Audries Blake plays the piano and now leads the weekly studies. “I love the elderly and thought it would be a wonderful way to not only serve them, but show them the love of God,” she says. The group is currently using Pastor Lee Vendon’s “It’s all about Jesus” material.

The participating residents were gifted miniature rose bushes as a symbol of how their relationship with Jesus is growing. And the spiritual nourishment goes both ways. “I’ve always wanted to do something more for God and this was perfect,” Audries says.
Depression affects the whole family. Ask Stanley Carty who experienced the illness for two years. He knows firsthand how devastating it can be. Learning that victory over depression is possible has been liberating for him.

Though not an upfront person, Carty is so excited he just has to share the good news.

“Following Dr. Neil Nedley’s Depression Recovery Program has changed my life,” Carty says. He is eating healthier, going to bed earlier, exercising daily, thinking positively, has a deeper relationship with God, and has lost 50 pounds.

Now a certified director, Carty completed leading his first eight-week Depression Recovery Program on October 26, 2010 at the Carty Community Center in Chowchilla. Participants kept track of their improved mental and physical health during the eight weeks. Shawn, already an avid reader of the Bible, began praying Psalm 18 in the morning and evening. With renewed encouragement and peace he is exercising more, sleeping better and is now correcting negative thoughts. Dorothy learned how essential water, deep breathing exercises and morning sunshine are.

“Although I am not under any physician’s care, I knew beforehand that I suffered from depression, and that it has increased over the past three years,” says Brenda. “Since attending the program, I have begun to make lifestyle changes.” Evaluating her thoughts, she is learning to replace negative with positive thinking. “I have found the book of Proverbs to be a wonderful tool of encouragement. When I read one each day of the month, my day goes better, and I’m able to think more positive.” Walking more and eating better, her motivation is increasing too. “I am finding that I have been happier, and have a better outlook on life.”

The next Depression Recovery Program for the community is schedule for the spring.

According to Dr. Neil Nedley, depression is reversible and does not have to be tolerated as a life-long condition. His book Depression: the Way Out educates and can help readers find a path to recovery, renewal and wellness.

Some Facts about Depression:

- Major depression is the most common mood disorder.
- It knows no cultural, social or economic barriers.
- It is largely misunderstood.
- One out of three Internal Medicine patients has it.
- Proper treatment can effectively reduce or cure it.
- Most cases can be treated on an outpatient basis.

Youth Prayer Conference: 350 students from 7 academies and 13 churches registered for the annual conference-wide event held at Monterey Bay Academy on Oct. 21-24, 2010. The packed schedule included worships, prayer times, small group Bible studies, Friday afternoon community outreach – in the rain, students went door-to-door with religious surveys, handed out GLOW literature, gifted random acts of kindness, and visited nursing homes in Santa Cruz, Seaside and Watsonville. Saturday night’s closing meeting ended at 9:30 p.m. but students stayed until after 11:00 p.m. praying together. At least 15 students made decisions for baptism, 21 asked for Bible studies, and the aisles were filled with students coming forward to accept Jesus as their Savior. The Youth Prayer Conference was planned and led by the four-member Youth Evangelism Team. Both the team and Youth Prayer Conference are funded through the Camp Meeting Evangelism Offering.

Camporee: More than 600 Pathfinders and staff gathered to camp, worship, learn new skills, and make new friends at this annual event. Held at the Showalter Ranch in Coarsegold, the campers’ worships were given by Denny Grady, youth director of the Potomac Conference. Bird specialist Ross Laird from the Fresno Chaffee Zoo gave Pathfinders an up close view of several birds. Sunday activities included a 30-foot rock climbing wall, Bible memory drill, centipede race, compass 8 points challenge, Indian carriage race, and rescue aid relay. A highlight was a performance by an R.O.T.C. team. With new friends, new skills and a rekindled flame for service and mission, the clubs headed home to continue making a difference in their local communities.

Pathfinders learn to work as a team. More than 600 campers and staff participated in the annual Camporee.
**What is tithe?**
Tithe is 10 percent of what God has blessed us with. (Hebrews 7:2, Genesis 28:22)

**What are offerings?**
Offerings are expressions of gratitude, beyond tithe, that we choose to give. (Deuteronomy 16:17)

**Why should I return tithes and give offerings?**
We return tithe and give offerings because God asks us to and it is our acknowledgement that everything is God's and that we are His stewards. God also says He will bless abundantly when we give out of thankfulness and love for Him. (Malachi 3:10-12, Psalm 24:1, Psalm 8:6, Deuteronomy 26:10, 11)

**What happens to the tithe I return?**
All tithe is sent by the local church to the Central California Conference where it is distributed according to the “CCC Tithe Usage” graph.

**What happens to “Local Church” offering?**
Your local church board decides how to use your offering in the ministry of your church. Most churches use offerings for expenses such as: utilities, Sabbath School supplies, church school subsidy, student aid, church ministries, community services, evangelism and local projects.

**TiThe and Offering Usage Charts**
The graphs below show how tithes and offerings are used in the conference and the World Church. Here are examples of uses in the tithe categories.

- **Church Programs** include pastors' salaries and benefits, expenses for conference departmental leadership such as children's and family ministries, evangelism and personal ministries.
- **Education and Youth** include assistance to elementary schools, senior academies, PUC and La Sierra University, summer camp and Youth Ministries.
- **Supporting Services** include plant services, administration, Planned Giving and Trust Services.
- **Special Services** include communication, camp meeting and volunteerism.
- **Other Services** include contributions to the defined benefit retirement fund.

**What if I have more questions?**
The Treasury personnel at the Central California Conference office are helpful, friendly people. You are welcome to call (559) 347-3000 to visit anytime.

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**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Have you ever had your picture taken over a headless frame? You know, the kind painted to represent a clown, or a muscle man, or even an animal of some kind? Mary Ellen and I were perusing through some family pictures the other day and ran into just such a picture that made us laugh.

You know why they are amusing? It's because the head doesn't fit the body. The picture reminded me of the following Bible verses: “Now we are the body of Christ...” (1 Cor. 12:27). “And He is the head of the body, the church...” (Col. 1:18).

I began to wonder about my own local church, the body of Christ in my community. What would we look like? Would our community laugh at the misfit? Or would they stand in awe of a human body so closely related to Christ’s divine head?

Now, I am blessed to be part of a church that is actively living Jesus’ love to our neighbors. And what I have observed is that the body of believers is filled with individuals – members who know their Savior, who prioritize spending time with Him everyday, who crave the indwelling of His Spirit.

Ellen White wrote: “Christ is the head of the church. The members of His body follow the directions of the Head, just as the members of the human body obey the impulses of the mind.” (RH, July 18, 1882 par. 21)

May my impulses be from Jesus. It is my hope and prayer that every day each of us would allow Jesus to make us more like Him, the Head of our church!

Trusting in Him,

Ramiro Cano

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**Web Sites to Visit**

Go to **ccc.adventist.org** or just Google “Central California Conference” for conference news, coming events, registration forms, archived camp meeting sermons, and more...

**Camp Wawona’s weekly blog** will keep you up on weekly happenings. Great pictures are included. Go to: **blog.camppwawona.org**

Go to **audioverse.org** for new GLOW presentations and **www.glowetc.com** for the new Colporteur Training Course.

**Ski Day (Feb. 27) at North Star in Tahoe.**
Please join us for a full day of skiing. Three guest speakers: Matt Parra, Jeffrey Rosario, Ivor Myers and a concert by Athena. Discounts for lodging and lift tickets are available for all Adventists. For more information call Tony at (415) 756-8970.
Fewer than half of Americans know most or all of their neighbors. A survey conducted by the Pew Research Center indicated that only 38% of Americans know their neighbors well enough to call them by name and occasionally have face to face conversations with them.

Cohesive and friendly neighborhoods share and enjoy many benefits. One study even indicated that personal health is affected positively when we know our neighbors and feel connected to them. Crime rates are lower in neighborhoods where people know each other, simply because they watch out for one another and call police when something suspicious is going on in their neighbor’s yard or house.

The church has also recognized the benefits of knowing our neighbors as one of the best ways to share the gospel with them. We call it “Friendship Evangelism.” (This year, some of our churches will be receiving training for a new program called Making Kingdom Friends. Check with the Evangelism Dept. for details.) As we take the time to become friends with people, they become more willing to open the doors of their personal lives and talk about spiritual things. Being a friend often gives us permission to talk about important issues in their lives; about their relationship with Jesus.

On May 23-24, 2011 the Southern California Conference will host a Spiritual Leadership Seminar on the campus of Azusa Pacific University. The guest presenters are internationally known speakers Pastors Henry and Richard Blackaby. The Blackaby’s have written several books: Experiencing God, Knowing and Doing the Will of God; Called to be God’s Leader and others. The upcoming seminar is based on their book, Spiritual Leadership. We are inviting leaders of other evangelical churches to participate with us in the Spiritual Leadership Seminar. Many Christian leaders are well acquainted with the writings and seminars of the Blackaby Ministry International team. The seminar is an opportunity for us to become friends with our neighbors of other churches and thus open doors of conversation and dialogue on spiritual and biblical interests.

Plan to come and to bring a friend, a neighbor or work associate who is not an Adventist and with whom you would like to talk about Jesus but don’t know how or where to start the conversation. This seminar may provide for you a common ground to begin the conversation.

Several of the pastors and lay members of our conference recently attended a Spiritual Leadership Seminar...
SCC Churches Partner in Television Evangelism

By Betty Cooney

A number of SCC churches will serve as hosts for a new satellite evangelism series featuring SCC Pastor Lawrence Dorsey, Sr., in 2011. “I am looking forward to partnering with churches in our conference for weekend revival meetings,” said Dorsey, the senior pastor of the Berean Church.

Entitled, Through the Eyes of John: Unfolding the Revelation, Dorsey’s initial series will be broadcast live on 3ABN from the Ambassador Adventist Church in Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, January 14 - 29. During the meetings, Dorsey will take viewers through the events in the book of Revelation, showing their relevance in today’s world.

Following the live prophecy series, Dorsey will present occasional weekend revival meetings during 2011 at a number of SCC churches. Taped meetings from the various churches in Southern California will air on 3ABN. “We want to highlight churches in our conference,” Dorsey said. “We have already made plans for weekend revival in the Central Filipino, Rolling Hills and Baldwin Park Bilingual churches and I am planning a major evangelistic series at the Berean Church in July. Others are still being scheduled.

“With the help of my associate Pastor Andre Turner and his wife Susan, I am able to maintain my busy church-and-evangelism schedule,” Dorsey explained. "Partnering with some of our churches through my Living Word Ministries outreaches gives me a special opportunity to highlight churches in our conferenc e for 3ABN viewers.”

Local pastors, too, are pleased to have an opportunity to partner in a project that will bring their congregations to viewers’ attention and heighten members’ interest in evangelism. “I believe this project

While attending the Spiritual Leadership conference, I was impressed that God was calling me and my church to a closer walk with Him; to be a God-saturated church. As we hear Him, God will communicate His will to His people and invite us to join in His activity in specific ways. The Church, then, as the living body of Christ, will pray together and the Lord will bring all to be of one heart and mind. We need to wait patiently on the Lord and be willing to adjust our plans to follow His calling, regardless of the cost.

—Myriam Salcedo-Gonzalez, pastor, All Nations Church

Information about the Spiritual Leadership Conference can be accessed from http://www.blackaby.org and will also be available at your local church.

Mission Statement
I Filipino Church of Seventh-day Adventists help people to be a people for the soon return of Christ

While attending the Spiritual Leadership conference, I was impressed that God was calling me and my church to a closer walk with Him; to be a God-saturated church. As we hear Him, God will communicate His will to His people and invite us to join in His activity in specific ways. The Church, then, as the living body of Christ, will pray together and the Lord will bring all to be of one heart and mind. We need to wait patiently on the Lord and be willing to adjust our plans to follow His calling, regardless of the cost.

—Myriam Salcedo-Gonzalez, pastor, All Nations Church

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At a C.H.I.P. (Coronary Heart Improvement Program) graduation for SCC pastoral couples conducted during the fall, Schubert Palmer MD announced that participants' lab tests revealed an average of 16-20% lower cholesterol levels. Eighteen SCC workers started the program and 14 graduated five weeks later.

"Participating in C.H.I.P. has been a blessing to me," commented Adolphus Garnett, director, Greater L. A. Region and coordinator of the C.H.I.P. initial classes for pastors. "It helped me to get back into an exercise program; I have been walking every morning and I have enjoyed it. My breathing has improved—and my weight has dropped 12 pounds!"

"The C.H.I.P. program opened my eyes to so many ways to eat better," said Valerie Dyson, whose husband pastors the Miramonte Blvd. Church New Hope Company. "I love the education I've gotten here."

"Thank you for making this available," said Gloria Huerta. "Javier and I came to do this together, as a couple. Now he can share what he has learned with our new churches, because we are both on the same bandwagon!"

Concluding five weeks of learning, sharing excellent food, swapping exercise experiences and laughter together, the graduation closed with individual graduates volunteering to sing verses of "It's a Big C.H.I.P. World after All," parodying Disney's "It's a Small World After All."

With the enthusiastic encouragement of recent C.H.I.P. graduates, James G. Lee, Jr., SCC vice president, announced, "We are working with Dr. Palmer to conduct a second C.H.I.P. program for SCC pastors and their spouses, conference office workers and teachers. The program will be held during January in the Conference office, beginning Sunday, January 9. I am looking forward to joining with other workers for this second C.H.I.P. program and know that our participation will benefit our health and work."

**Lifestyle Events Planned**

**Jan. 15 – Full Plate Diet Weight Loss Program Training for Health Ministry directors.** 3-6 p.m., location TBA. For more details, visit http://scschealthmin.adventistfaith.org/events

**Feb. 19-21 (Presidents' Day Weekend) – Reverse Diabetes, Obesity & Heart Disease Seminar.** A 48-hour lifestyle intervention seminar presented by Board-certified physicians. 5 p.m. Sat. - 4 p.m. Mon., Pacific Palms Conference Resort. Includes six tasty, abundant meals, physician presentations, cooking classes, syllabus, exercise and opportunity for Q&A with physicians. New: coordinated follow-up with area churches. Details at http://scschealthmin.adventistfaith.org/. Info: 818-516-6508; bcooney818@sbcglobal.net
“Making Kingdom Friends”
Training Held

Approximately 20 pastors and lay persons recently attended a training session for “Making Kingdom Friends,” a program developed by ShareHim, a ministry of the Carolina Conference. The program utilizes a set of five DVDs designed to provide conference leaders and pastors the tools needed to identify individuals who can be a part of a local Outreach Leadership Team (OLT).

OLT members receive training on how to build, enhance and document personal relationships with “Kingdom Friends,” or those who may be interested in the message God has given the Adventist Church. Practical steps for planning and implementing a continuous cycle of network-building and evangelistic reaping campaigns are included in the training.

San Fernando Valley Cluster

Planning for evangelism is underway in the San Fernando Valley Cluster churches. “We are planning to schedule five rallies during 2011,” said James G. Lee, Jr., Evangelism director.

- The initial rally will be held from 3 - 5 p.m., January 22, in the Northridge Church. Elder Larry L. Caviness will be the featured speaker.
- Five rallies, scheduled every other month, will focus on prayer and evangelism training.
- San Fernando Cluster pastors will lead out in some of the training, using the “Making Kingdom Friends” program for their churches.

Rallies and other activities will serve as preparation events for a major evangelistic series planned by the San Fernando cluster of churches for the fall of 2011. B. J. Boles, an evangelist and senior pastor of the Augusta, Georgia Church, will be the speaker.

The SCC Bible Instructors Guild (B.I.G.) will conduct a Revelation Seminar at Los Angeles Adventist Academy from January 30 - March 12. These meetings mark the first time Bible instructors, church elders and lay workers have come together in a concerted effort to give a Revelation Seminar. Elder Garnet R. Hillery, Director, Greater Los Angeles Region, is the coordinator. Esther Tamyra King, B.I.G. president, led Bible workers and lay person in preparing for the series by visiting homes and conducting Bible studies in the L. A. A. A. community.

“Through our visits in the academy neighborhood, we have been blessed with 50-60 Bible studies,” said King. “In addition to Bible workers and lay persons from Greater Los Angeles Region, members from the Gardena and Tongan churches have been active in our preparation work. (The Tongan Church currently worships at L. A. A. A.)

“When we make an effort, God will bless.”
-A Layman’s Experience

About 13 months ago, Ralph Arnold, former head elder of the Thousand Oaks Church, said he had become concerned for his surfing friend’s soul. “I asked Mike and his wife Karen if they would like to have a Bible study together,” he said. Arnold knew Karen was a believer, and he called some surfers who were mutual friends who were also believers, inviting them to the Bible study. The study has continued on a weekly basis, with as many as ten attending. Mike has said he wants to be baptized in Ralph’s church, and his wife Karen has started keeping the Sabbath. The others are very moved in learning new Bible truths.

In October, 2010, an engineer friend, Leonard and his wife, who had come to a three-night series Arnold conducted in March 2010, asked, “Would you be willing to come to our home in Camarillo and give these same talks to our friends?” Arnold casually asked him how many might be attending. “About 40 or 50,” the engineer responded.

“Are they believers?” Arnold asked.

“Many of them are not,” Leonard replied.

When Arnold arrived on the first evening, 42 persons were present, to study the prophecies of Daniel 2 and Revelation 13. Seeing the excellent graphics coupled with Bible teaching elicited warm appreciation. “I’ve been going to church for a long time,” said one, “but this presentation makes the Bible so clear. Thank you!”

The group plans to meet every two weeks. “I am impressed to see the power of God’s word and that when we make an effort, God will bless,” said Arnold.
Having grown up in a family of four children, with our mother at home and our father as the only breadwinner, I understand well what it means to be financially challenged. My parents made difficult decisions about how to spend what little money we had and often were forced to look for creative ways to put food on the table. And they always did.

They also returned their tithe and gave offerings, trusting God to take care of our needs. Because of my parents’ example, I come to believe that God will always make a way out of no way when we give Him His way in our lives. I’ve seen this happen many times, most recently here in Southeastern California Conference during the past couple of years.

Members, churches, the conference office—all of us have downsized, stretched our dollars further than ever before, and made tough choices about what we can and cannot live without.

But through it all, you, the members of this great conference, have been faithful in your commitments to God, and God is continuing to help us fulfill our mission to expand His kingdom here in Southeastern California.

Because of our successful evangelistic endeavors, SECC’s churches are growing. And although finances haven’t allowed us to increase the number of pastors in our churches, God is helping us find ways to continue providing our members with outstanding spiritual leadership. Education remains one of our top priorities. Our commitment to maintaining Pine Springs Ranch as a welcoming and comfortable retreat where adults and children can draw closer to God remains firm. All this is possible because of your faithfulness and God’s blessing.

This month’s newsletter focuses on how the work of God in Southeastern California Conference is being funded. I pray that it will help you better understand not only how the conference uses your tithe dollars but also how it supports the ministries that are important to you.

As we begin this new year, may God’s blessings be a bridge over troubled waters. With God leading us, we can face the future with confidence, knowing that every new day brings us closer to the second coming of Christ.

— Gerald Penick, President

WWW.SECCADVENTIST.ORG
Follow the Money:
Where Do Tithe Funds Go?

Economically uncertain times often necessitate tough spending decisions. Charitable giving inevitably slows in times like these, and individuals who give want confidence in the causes they support monetarily. The church, of course, is not exempt. Southeastern California Conference has seen a 6 percent decline in tithe received since 2007. That decline has forced conference leaders to make difficult decisions about how tithe money is apportioned.

The allocation of tithe money provides a historical picture of Southeastern California Conference’s values—a snapshot of the cumulative choices made about this conference’s priorities and how they are supported. In other words, to get a sense for the causes SECC believes in, follow the money.

The budgeted tithe income for 2010, illustrated in Graph 1, is $44,787,780.

Six primary uses within the conference demonstrate SECC’s top priorities: quality leadership; world church mission; conference-wide ministries; local congregations; education; and the ministries of Pine Springs Ranch.

World Church Mission
The first allocation of money from that budget is $10.5 million, about 23 percent, set aside to support the missions of world church institutions beyond the conference. Nearly $5.1 million of that money goes to the North American Division (NAD) and the General Conference (GC). The GC-retain portion is appropriated to fund the worldwide mission of the church. Among other uses, the NAD portion includes the support of media ministries It Is Written and Breath of Life Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary tuition; and software that manages church membership, accounting and online giving.

About $5.4 million goes to the Pacific Union Conference, whose ministries span 696 local congregations in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah. Of that $5.4 million, $1.8 million is allocated for higher education: Pacific Union College, La Sierra University and Oakwood University.

After the monies apportioned for the world church, the net available tithe for conference use is $34,290,629, or 77 percent, which is illustrated as 100 percent in Graph 2.
January 2011

Quality Leaders
Nearly 48 percent of retained tithe ($16 million; see Graph 2) goes toward employing ministers. This money includes salaries, benefits and education for the conference’s more than 200 full-time and part-time pastors. SECC prioritizes quality leadership, believing that it leads to thriving congregations. An additional 10 percent ($3.6 million) of retained tithe pays for conference administration. This allocation not only includes the workers who serve at the conference office, but also covers human resources, in-house legal services, and conference treasury services, such as payroll, accounting, conference-wide church receiving, conference-wide insurance services, conference church and school audits, investment management, and bond administration. Another 13 percent ($4.5 million) funds the defined benefit plan for workers who earned retirement in these difficult times also reflects a reduction in payroll, accounting, conference-wide church receiving, conference-wide insurance services, conference church and school audits, investment management, and bond administration. Another 13 percent ($4.5 million) funds the defined benefit plan for workers who earned retirement service credit before 2000.

The dedication to outstanding leaders reflected in the percentage of tithe spent to retain them in these difficult times also reflects a tough reality: all full-time SECC employees—pastors, administrators and teachers alike—have taken a 5 percent reduction in pay, and more than 35 positions conference-wide have been eliminated in order to help balance conference and school budgets.

Departments, Services and Church Ministries
SECC invests 8.4 percent ($2.88 million) of retained tithe into 16 departments, services and ministries: Asian-Pacific Ministries, Black Ministries, Church Growth and Discipleship Department, Commitment Department, Communication Department, Community Services Department, Education Department, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Hispanic Ministries, Ministerial Department, Religious Liberties Department, Retirees Ministry, Women’s Ministries, Youth Ministries and Youth Rush.

Part of the 8.4 percent goes to Church Ministries, which includes retaining three evangelists. Money allocated for evangelism covers the salaries and the cost of evangelistic meetings. Wide-ranging ministry at the local level is a conference priority and value.

Local Congregations
Beyond the investment that SECC makes in securing quality leaders for its churches, the conference invests 2.5 percent ($867,500) of retained tithe directly into programs and materials for local congregations. This includes money for churches’ evangelistic meetings, Vacation Bible School programs for children, and materials such as tithe envelopes. With more than 50 percent of tithe money directed toward the life of the local congregation, it is clear that the well-being of each congregation is a priority for the conference.

Education
The Seventh-day Adventist Church runs one of the largest, most effective nongovernmental education systems in the world, second in size only to Catholic parochial schools. As in the church as a whole, the education of young people is a cause SECC believes in strongly. Over 16 percent ($5.7 million) of the
Southeastern California Conference Priorities

Continued from page 3

Pine Springs Ranch

Finally, the conference allocates 1 percent (nearly $400,000) of retained income to subsidize the ministries of Pine Springs Ranch, the conference’s retreat facility nestled in the San Bernardino Mountains. In particular, PSR’s summer camp provides a safe, Christ-centered environment in a beautiful natural setting where youth of all ages forge lifelong friendships with Jesus and with one another. SECC believes in Pine Springs Ranch’s life-giving ministry to young people, conference churches and Christians of many denominations.

Because of the decline in tithe revenue, the Southeastern California Conference has drawn upon reserves during these lean years. But the conference’s mission—the expansion of God’s kingdom through the preaching, teaching, publishing, and living of the everlasting gospel throughout the cross-cultural communities of our territory—continues through the work of dedicated pastors, administrators, educators and laypersons.

This analysis of how the conference utilizes tithe monies reveals the key priorities and values that over time have made this conference unique in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. SECC believes in securing quality leadership, supporting conference-wide ministries, supporting the work of the worldwide church, caring for local congregations, providing outstanding education, and providing a one-of-a-kind experience for young and old alike at Pine Springs Ranch.

All of these services and ministries are possible because we work together to support the work of God’s kingdom through our tithes and offerings. The mission is ours to share. The rewards, likewise, belong to us all.

**More Information to Come**

Thomas Staples, conference treasurer, who provided the information for this report, notes that “this is not a comprehensive report of conference resources.” That information will be provided in future reports in Conference Priorities about Southeastern California Conference’s finances.
Nevada-Utah Member Receives Rare Honor

Denny Krause

It’s not often that anyone has a museum named in their honor, but one Nevada-Utah Conference member was recently so honored.

On Oct. 6, Oakwood University, located in Huntsville, Alabama, honored Clara Peterson Rock by naming its newly-renovated library museum in her honor.

The museum, created by Rock in 1971 as the Oakwood College Archives and Museum, was housed in the then newly-completed Eva B. Dykes Library. Rock envisioned the museum collections to chronicle the history of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) and black Adventist history in the southern states.

At the time, Rock was the first lady of Oakwood College while her husband Calvin B. Rock was president. Not only that, she was the first presidential daughter to later become a first lady of the college, her father having previously served as college president.

For twelve years, seizing on this unique vantage point, Rock relentlessly, unselfishly, and proudly organized, catalogued, and displayed the many vital historical documents that have come to be an important part of Oakwood and southern black Adventist history.

Now, her work — those historic photographs, precious artifacts, one-of-a-kind memorabilia, and evidence of historic gifts to the college — stands as a memorial to the storied past and bright future of an important Adventist institution.

Since 2002, Rock has been the first lady of the Abundant Life church in Las Vegas, Nev., where her husband is senior pastor.

Nevada-Utah Conference President, Larry Unterseher comments, “We are delighted that Clara Peterson Rock has received the honor of having the Oakwood University Museum named after her. This honor gives evidence of her dedication to the Lord, which is a blessing to this conference and to many individuals around the world.”

Clara and Calvin Rock enjoy the museum dedication.
Men’s Choruses from California
Minister Through Song

Edwin Garcia

Music aficionado Art Garbutt has sung in choirs and choruses throughout his adult life. Yet he never expected to coordinate a combined chorus comprised of six talented groups and 110 God-praising men from the Northern, Central, Southern and Southeastern California conferences.

But that’s what happened on Nov. 6 at the Men’s Chorus Festival, held at the Carmichael church in Sacramento. The event drew a pew-filling, folding-chair-sitting, standing-room-only audience of about 900 people.

“I had no idea it would turn out to be something so involved,” Garbutt said. “And I’m glad it has evolved that way because it has become an outreach and a ministry for each of the individual groups that comes here.”

Garbutt organized his first men’s chorus festival in 2003, with just three groups. The 2004 festival had six, the 2005 festival featured four, and the most recent, in 2007, attracted five.

The 2010 turnout was boosted by a professional Southern California men’s chorus, Christian Edition, directed by Calvin Knipschild, whose 21 nationally touring members sang side-by-side with less experienced vocalist from five church-based groups.

The groups and their leaders included: Bakersfield Hillcrest Men’s Chorus (Judy Houston), Modesto Praise Men’s Chorus (Gordon de Leon), Sonora Community Christian Men’s Chorus (Rod Kerbs), Carmichael Men’s Chorus (Art Garbutt), and Bay Area Men’s Chorus (Milton Wheeler).

Steven Baker of Sonora, one of 30 baritones, said he experienced a difficult-to-describe “deep, down joy” singing with so many talented individuals, especially when Knipschild was directing.

“I love his philosophy,” Baker said. “You need to be delivering a message when you’re singing — a sermon. For him it needs to be worship.”

The free concert opened with six songs by the combined chorus, which had gathered for the first time the night before. Previously, each group had been practicing for months. In addition, each director selected two songs for the combined chorus to sing, and took turns leading out. Each group also performed on its own.

Knipschild said audience members afterward repeatedly conveyed the same message to him: “That was the most spiritual program I’ve attended.”

“The Festival was a great experience, a glimpse of the praise that we will sing around the throne,” said Carmichael Men’s Chorus member Dan Carr, about singing with the 110-man group. “The chorus members were blessed to sing and share praises to our God.”

As Garbutt starts to plan the 2011 festival, he’s realizing that Carmichael — one of the largest churches in the Pacific Union — may be too small a venue. On the upside: if the festival moves to a public auditorium, the concert can witness to more people from the community.
The roots of the St. Helena church run long and deep. Well-preserved logbooks with their fancy pen-and-ink script are kept at the church. The first inscription records the proceedings of the first Sabbath school, held in a home on November 8, 1873.

Almost 137 years later, on Oct. 23, 2010, the church held a homecoming, which Pastor Daniel Freedman hopes to make an annual event. Former pastors were invited, and invitations were sent to as many church members as could be found. Over three hundred people attended, despite rainy weather.

“The most exciting part of homecoming was seeing so many from the old youth group from the late ‘70s and early ‘80s,” said church member Melanie Ward. “We have all aged, but it was the highlight of the day to see them all.”

During the church service, Meade Baldwin, 90, gave a brief history of the church, and his youngest great-grandson, Tanner Cholmondeley, was dedicated to the Lord. Dan Oliver and John and Debi Taylor harmonized in singing “Coming Home,” a song written for the homecoming, reflecting former Pastor Pete Geli’s sermon on “The Triple Blessing of Church Attendance.”

Following lunch (a gigantic spaghetti feed), everyone was invited to a hymnfest and sharing time. Personal memories were the highlight of the afternoon, interspersed with songs of praise and historical facts. Later in the day, Margie Salcedo Rice graced the audience with song and testimony. The homecoming concluded with a game night.

“Many of my former youth were at the homecoming with their families,” said Gregg Stutchman, who served as a youth leader for 18 years. “Being with them again was a foretaste of heaven. They were and always will be a part of my heart.”

Read more about the history of the St. Helena church at www.shsda.org, under the “About Us” heading.
Festivities Mark 20th Anniversary of Proton Treatment Center

James Ponder

More than 600 friends of the James M. Slater, M.D., Proton Treatment & Research Center (PTRC) at Loma Linda University Medical Center (LLUMC) came together on Sunday, Oct. 24, for a 20th anniversary salute to the man whose pioneering research is saving the lives of thousands of individuals with prostate, brain, and other forms of cancer. Unfortunately, Slater was unable to attend due to a minor illness.

Thanks to Slater’s groundbreaking work, LLUMC became the first hospital in the world to treat cancer with protons. Proton therapy is a precise form of radiation treatment in which tiny particles penetrate the body from outside and destroy cancer cells with minimal or no damage to surrounding tissue and organs.

Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-CA) took the podium to share his experience of proton treatment at LLUMC. After confiding that his scariest moment was receiving a diagnosis of prostate cancer, Lewis told how his research on treatment options led him to Loma Linda.

Lewis was not the only person in attendance to both benefit from the PTRC and become a strong advocate and supporter. According to J. Lynn Martell, D.Min., director of special services for the department of radiation medicine, “Bob Marckini has developed an amazing support group of former prostate patients from around the world. The members of this international group — the Brotherhood of the Balloon (BOB) — are proactive as advocates for prostate awareness and for proton therapy. Bob and his group have made an incredible positive impact upon thousands of men and their families across this country and around the world. They have also been responsible for raising several million dollars for research at Loma Linda.”

Martell observed that a direct correlation exists between the meteoric success of BOB — which grew from 19 members a decade ago to 5,000 today — and the intrepid dedication of its founder, Bob Marckini. Since his own prostate cancer was successfully treated at LLUMC in 2000, Marckini has devoted as many as 85 hours per week to the ministry he loves.

Ruthita J. Fike, MA, CEO of LLUMC, asked Congressman Lewis to rise and be recognized as a valued friend of the James M. Slater, M.D., Proton Treatment and Research Center. The congressman recalled how the senior Slater’s brilliance and persuasion disarmed skeptics in Congress and resulted in allocations of $40 million to launch the PTRC.

“The message,” Congressman Lewis concluded, “has been received: this application has wonderful, wonderful future prospects for health care and for humankind.”

When Martell invited Marckini back to the podium, Marckini reminded the audience that he is “one of tens of thousands of patients worldwide” who’ve benefitted from the work of the Slaters. “I’m proud to report,” Marckini told Jerry Slater, “that over the past 10 years, our group has introduced thousands of men to proton therapy for prostate cancer, most of whom have come here to Loma Linda for their treatment. I’m even more proud to report that our group has been responsible for contributing about $6 million to proton therapy research.” He then presented Slater with a check from the Brotherhood in the amount of $500,000. “God bless Dr. Jerry Slater, Dr. James Slater,” he said, “for the gift they have given, for how they are changing the world!”
Loma Linda Continues Medical Work in Haiti

Richard Weismeyer

In July a small group of Loma Linda University students working under the auspices of Students for International Mission Service (SIMS) made their way to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where they provided needed services at Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti (HAH).

Following the devastating 7.0 earthquake of January 12, 2010, at 4:53 p.m., three million people were left in desperate need of emergency aid, while 33 aftershocks ranging in magnitude from 4.2 to 5.9 continued to rattle the city. After months of LLUMC physicians and staff rotating through HAH, the first SIMS-sponsored trip was led by Jack Bennett, M.D., a recently retired physician, assisted by Linda Davis, Pharm.D., assistant professor in the School of Pharmacy.

Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti remained intact during the earthquake. No major damage was reported, and the Adventist Health International facility was one of only a handful of major hospitals available to the population during the first days and weeks following the earthquake. Much of the city was destroyed during the earthquake, including the Presidential Palace. Tent cities sprung up around the devastated city including the hospital grounds and the Adventist university located adjacent to the hospital. Many of the local population are staying in make-shift “homes” at many locations throughout the city.

Students accompanying Bennett included Michael Nguyen, a School of Pharmacy student; Kevin De Leon, a School of Medicine student; and three students from the School of Public Health — Sarah Daguplo, public health educator; Sonya Reese, health policy student; and Julie Turner, global health student.

“Our mission was to sort relief supplies,” Davis says. “And we noticed that the hospital pharmacy did not have an adequate inventory system. The pharmacy supplies were not sorted and solutions were scattered throughout the hospital. Expired medicines were mixed in with the current medicines.”

The group started in the multiple storage rooms, according to Davis. They gathered all donated medications and centralized them to the pharmacy and one pharmacy storage room, categorizing the medications according to the World Health Organization model list.

“One of the immediate needs includes a complete drug inventory and developing a continuous inventory, utilization, and ordering system,” Davis relates.

When the team arrived in July, even though the earthquake happened six months prior, the group found that the city was still devastated. Only 5 percent of the quake debris has been cleared. Officials estimate at the current rate, it will take several years to move the earthquake debris.

With a population of nearly 10 million people, Haiti is the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere. Eighty percent of the population in Haiti is living below the poverty line. Most Haitians live on less than $2 per day.

Davis hopes to make Haiti trips ongoing during vacation time for the students. SIMS has its next trip scheduled for spring break 2011.

“It was such a privilege for us to go there and offer our help. We are looking forward to the next trip,” she says.

Donations toward the continuing work at Hopital Adventiste d’Haiti are still being accepted at www.lluglobal.com/haiti.
Revival and reformation and a renewed emphasis to come together in love and unity to reclaim missing members and to reach our communities with the gospel, was a significant message presented during General Conference Autumn Council and the North American Division Year-end Meeting in late 2010. Presidents Ted N. C. Wilson, GC; and Dan Jackson, NAD; introduced documents that were read and voted and that are intended to impact church life and its mission during the next five years.

President Dan Jackson shares his vision for NAD: “I believe that we are living in that segment of time that the Bible writers describe as “the end of the age.” For Seventh-day Adventists of all generations the resounding message of the Scriptures is: Jesus is coming soon! However, as I consider the scope of the task God has given us, it is not difficult to see that the mission is far more extensive than can be accomplished through human energy and means. As never before, you and I must have the power of God’s Spirit to take control of us personally and corporately. It is not acceptable for us to think that we can continue to carry out God’s work as we’re doing now, or have in the past. We are in desperate need of spiritual renewal. As individuals and as a division-wide family we must appeal to God to gift us with His Spirit to such an extent that our hearts will continually focus on His will and His plan for us and for the world around us.”

At the autumn meetings, members of both sessions voted overwhelmingly to endorse the following statements:

The challenge of taking the gospel to the world is not new. The disciples faced this challenge in the first century. We face it in the twenty-first century. The New Testament Church was seemingly confronted with an impossible task. But empowered by the Holy Spirit the Church exploded in growth (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31).

Christ’s Great Commission was accompanied by His great promise. The Savior commanded His disciples “not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4). The Savior promised, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8)

The love of Christ controlled every aspect of the lives of the disciples and moved them to a passionate commitment to His service. They sought God for the promised power of the Holy Spirit and knelt before Him in heartfelt confession and earnest repentance.

Too often God’s mission of saving a lost world has not taken first place in our hearts. At times in our busyness doing good things we have neglected the most important thing — knowing Him. There is nothing more important than knowing Jesus, studying His word, understanding His truth and seeking His promise for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power for the fulfilling of the gospel commission. God’s last-day prophet to the remnant wrote in words too plain to be misunderstood, “A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work” (Selected Messages, Volume 1, p. 121).

If a genuine spiritual revival is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs, should we not place priority on seeking Heaven’s promised

Jackson continues, “As president of the North American Division I want to appeal to each layperson and to every employee to take this matter personally and seriously. This kind of commitment alone will move the church into the kind of future that God has in mind for our Division.”

Before the 2010 Year-end Meeting, the NAD leadership team met in an exercise of strategic planning for the next five years. “We resolve that by 2015, the church in North America will have become transformed by the Holy Spirit and moved to action in the following five ways,” says Jackson.

The initiative, “REACH North America”, was adopted as a guideline and measuring device both for personal revival and for corporate nurturing and outreach.

REACH UP
(Revival and Reformation)
Churches experience a revival and reformation that results in life-changing transformations.
Members enjoy a vibrant and joyful relationship with Christ.

REACH ACROSS
(Unity in Diversity)
New members love for Christ is a catalyst to reinvigorate their congregations. New members are oriented to and inspired by the life-affirming culture of Adventism and are integrated into the fabric of the church.

Each member is actively involved in church life and ministry. Discipleship training and compelling leadership opportunities are provided to children, youth, young adults, students in public education, seniors, and members with disabilities.

Adventists disengaged from church life are recognized as valued members of our family. Congregations implement ways to actively reconnect with them.

Congregations embrace and practice the concept of “unity in diversity: in such matters as age, gender, race, and socio-economic status; congregations are intentional in planning ways to educate members.

REACH OUT
(Evangelism, Community, Discipleship)
North American Division organizations of every type combine their efforts in communicating Adventism’s distinctive message of hope; and wholeness to every person within the NAD territory with a focus on big cities.

REACH IN
(Growing Disciples/Adventist Education)
Because Adventist education is a core value of the church, the local church is an education center for members of all ages—combining with the school to serve and to evangelize children and youth within church and the community.

Through NAD resources, the church makes distinctively Adventist education available to every Adventist child.

The church finds a way to help strengthen and build a system of Adventist higher education.

REACH FORWARD
(A Focus on Leadership)
The NAD, unions, local conferences, and institutions collaborate to support mission and strategy through responsible stewardship and a culture of inclusive participation.

Organizations and institutions have in place a well-designed and active program to cultivate and develop leaders.

The NAD significantly increases member donations.

The NAD and at least four unions to implement Assessment for Excellence programs that promote and document levels of financial integrity, operational efficiency, program quality and staff effectiveness.

Complete document is found at www.nadadventist.org

Jackson challenges every pastor, lay-member, church administrator, departmental leader, institutional worker, health worker, literature evangelist, chaplain and educator to make revival, reformation, discipleship, and evangelism the most important and urgent priorities of our personal lives and our areas of ministry. “As we seek Him together, God will pour out His Holy Spirit in abundant measure, the work of God on earth will be finished, and Jesus will come”, concluded President Jackson.

Please join the North American Division family in experiencing God’s blessing and direction in the final moments prior to His return.
Faith and Finance is a unique combination of biblical principles and practical lessons written to help Seventh-day Adventists® better manage their finances with such topics as:

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Do you have more month than money? Are you looking for sound biblical and practical answers to your current financial challenge?

Special Offer!
This year the Pacific Union Conference Stewardship Department is offering a special for church small groups (prayer meeting groups or Sabbath School groups).

- 10 copies of Faith and Finance for only $6.00 each

Your church group will also receive, at no additional cost, a Leader’s Guide workbook with an instructional CD-ROM enclosed.

In addition, if you order before March 2011, your order will be shipped to you without the usual shipping expense. Order today by calling the Pacific Union Conference Stewardship Department’s direct line (805) 413-7350 and Julie Masterson will be happy to assist you.*

Available in both Spanish and English languages $12.95 each plus tax, (see your local ABC store to order)

If you would like the Faith and Finance $49.00 DVD, order from AdventSource 1-800-328-0525 or (www.adventsource.org).

La Sierra University
THE STAHLE CENTER FOR WORLD SERVICE presents “Marimbas, Mariachis, and Mission,” a day-long celebration of world service at the LSU church (Jan. 15). Featured speaker is Jose Vicente Rojas, NAD. Meetings will be at 9:30 a.m., noon, and 3 p.m. For more information, contact the Stahl Center at 951-785-2041.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY Music Department offers Faculty Recital Series with Giovanni Santos, trumpet, and David Kendall, low brass, on Sunday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m., in Hole Memorial Auditorium. Free admission.

THE BRANDSTER GALLERY features the annual La Sierra University Art Faculty Exhibition, January 24 to February 20. Info: 951-785-2959.

WINTER QUARTER instruction begins on January 9. For the latest enrollment information, contact 1-800-874-5587.

FIRST SERVICE WORSHIP takes place Friday nights at 8 p.m. at La Sierra University. Info: 951-785-2090.

Doletta Myers; concert by Athena.

Central California

HISPANIC SABBATH SCHOOL/Church Officers Training/Lay Recognition (Jan. 8) San Jose Spanish church. Info: Florina 559-347-3150 or e-mail: fmorales@cccsda.org.

PRAYER SUMMIT (Jan. 14-15) Clovis church. Info: Joyce Mulligan 209-996-5393 or e-mail: joycejmulligan@sbcglobal.net.

GLOW RALLY (Jan. 16) Fresno Central church. Info: Desiree 559-347-3152 or visit: www.goglow.org.

WOMEN’S RETREAT (Jan. 28-30) Tenaya Lodge. Info: Pat Curtis 559-642-2396.

WOMEN’S RETREAT (Feb. 4-6) Soquel. Info: Pat Curtis 559-642-2396.

HISPANIC WOMEN’S RETREAT (Feb. 4-6) Tenaya Lodge. Info: Florina 559-347-3150 or e-mail: fmorales@cccsda.org.

HISPANIC CONVOCATION (Feb. 12) Bakersfield Hispanic Church. Info: Florina 559-347-3150 or e-mail: fmorales@cccsda.org.

MARRIAGE RETREAT (Feb. 17-22) Burlingame. Info: Lissath 559-347-3176 or e-mail: lpasillas@cccsda.org

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RALLY (Feb. 18-19) Fresno Central church. Info: Florina 559-347-3150 or e-mail: fmorales@cccsda.org.


Are you looking for sound biblical and practical answers to your current financial challenge?
Southeastern California

LIGHTS FOR LITTLE LIVES
Memorial Walk (Dec. 31) 3:30 p.m.
Two locations: Palm Desert Civic Center, 73-510 Fred Waring Dr.,
Palm Desert; and Ronald McDonald House, 11365 Anderson St., Loma Linda.
Annual candlelit walk by The Unforgettable Foundation. Info: 760-
837-7373, 951-680-9996.

WEEK OF RENEWAL
(Jan. 8-15)
11:45 a.m., Speakers, Randy Roberts
and Richard Hart. Loma Linda University church, 11125 Campus St.,
Loma Linda. Open to the public. Info: 909-558-4570, ext. 47091.

WINTER WEDNESDAYS
(Jan. 12-29) Light supper, 6 p.m.,
seminars, 7 p.m. LLU church, 11125 Campus St., Loma Linda. Topics
include biblical studies, family, prayer, health, and natural sciences.
Participants must enroll and pay a fee to help with expenses. Contact:
909-558-4570.

MIND, SPIRIT IN DIALOGUE
(Jan. 21) 7:30 p.m., LLU church, 11125
Campus St., Loma Linda. Speakers, panels, and questions on the topic
“Celebrating the 400th Anniversary of the King James Version: History,
Literature, Continuing Impact.” Info: 909-558-4570.

SECC INTERMEDIATE HANDBELL
Festival (Feb. 4) 7 p.m., Palm Desert
Oasis church, 74-200 Country Club Dr.,
Palm Desert. All are welcome. Info: 951-509-2313.

PALM SPRINGS REGIONAL
Winter Camp Meeting (Feb. 4-5) Speaker,
Craig Newborn, senior pastor, Oakwood Univ. church. Palm Springs
church, 620 S. Sunrise Way, Palm Springs. “Help for Haiti,” presentation
during Sabbath School, Info: 760-327-5112.

GARY BONNER SINGERS
(Feb. 12) 7 p.m., Tierrasanta church, 11260
Claremont Mesa Blvd., San Diego.
Info: 858-576-9990.

CHURCH TREASURERS’ Workshop
(Feb. 27) 8:30 a.m.-12 noon, SECC
office, 11130 Pierce St., Riverside.
Lunch will be served at noon. Info:
951-509-2243.

Southern California

SECOND SATURDAY SERIES
Concert, featuring concert organist
Christoph Bull (Jan. 8) 4 p.m.,
Glendale City church, 610 E.
California Ave. Admission is free. Info:
818-244-7241

“THROUGH THE EYES OF JOHN,
the Unfolding of the Revelation” (Jan.
14-29), evangelistic series featuring
Pastor Lawrence S. Dorsey, Sr., airing
nightly except Thurs., 7 p.m. EST on
3ABN. Unlinked from Ambassador
Adventist church in Lauderdale Lakes,
Fla. Info: 323-735-0228.

L.A. ADVENTIST FORUM
(Jan. 22)
3 p.m., Chapel of the Good Shepherd,
Glendale City church, 610 California
Ave. “Adventism and Postmodernism.”
Speaker, Gerhard van Wyk, Ph.D.,
professor of theology, University of
South Africa. Info: 818-244-7241.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI
Homecoming (April 29-31) Honor
1971, 1961, 1951, and 50-plus years.
Info: isalumni@lsak12.com or 951-
351-3445, ext. 244.

CHIP (Jan. 17-Feb. 10) St. Helena
class, 1777 Main Street, St. Helena.
Coronary Health Improvement Project
program will be held Mon.-Thurs.,
6:30-8:45 p.m. Info: chip@shsda.org
or 707-963-7143.

MARRIAGE/PARENTING Seminar
(Jan. 21, 22) Sacramento-Central
church, 6045 Camellia Avenue,
Sacramento. Speakers: Jim and Sally

TAKE IT TO THE STREETS
(Jan. 21-23 & Jan. 28-30) San Francisco.
Info: Youth Department, 925-685-
4300, ext. 1280.

CHURCH CLERK TRAINING Seminar
(Jan. 30) 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
NCC Headquarters. Topics include:
eAdventist membership, keeping
records, new clerk’s manual and more.
Lunch provided. Info: Conference
Clerk, 888-434-4622, ext. 1201 (toll
free).

FRESHMAN/SOPHOMORE
RETREAT (Feb. 4-6) Leoni Meadows.
Info: Youth Department, 925-685-
4300, ext. 1280.

HISPANIC CHURCH MINISTRIES
Training (Feb. 6) 10 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
No-cost training for variety of local
church ministries. Lunch provided.
Concord International church, 1655
West Street, Concord. Info: Hispanic
Ministries Department, 925-685-
4300, ext. 1292.

Pacific Union College

FINE ARTS SERIES (Jan. 8) Faculty
Trio. PUC Paulin Hall auditorium. 7
p.m. Info: 707-965-6303.

RASMUSSEN ART GALLERY
Opening (Jan. 15) PUC Rasmussen
Art Gallery. 7 p.m. Exhibit: Heat &
Wax: Encaustic Paintings. Various
artists. Open through Feb. 12. Info:
707-965-6303.

WINTER REVIVAL (Jan. 19-22)
Speaker: Tim Gillespie. PUC church
sanctuary. Info: 707-965-6303

FINE ARTS SERIES (Jan. 29) Piano
concert by alumnus Elben Capule. PUC
Paulin Hall auditorium. 7 p.m. Info:
707-965-6303.
At Your Service

HAPPY FACES is a licensed care home that provides supportive living services to residents who can no longer live alone, creating and maintaining a comfortable, home-like atmosphere. We trust that you will make our home the senior care home of choice. For more information 602-284-6801.

HOME HEALTH/HOSPICE Care: When it comes to selecting the best home health/hospice care, experience counts. Adventist families in Southern California are carefully matched to the best home health/hospice care providers for their loved ones care. Adventist chaplains provide spiritual support and bereavement services. Call 949-295-9671 or e-mail: CaringSolutions4U@gmail.com.

FULL PLATE DIET: Looking for a new, inexpensive health program for your church? Consider the Full Plate Diet Weight Loss Program created by Lifestyle Center of America doctors. Eight one-hour sessions perfect for small groups. Great stand-alone program or follow up after CHIIF. www.FullPlateDiet.org. 800-681-0797.

LOOKING FOR AN INVESTMENT, retirement or second home in Hawaii? Full-service real estate company including property management. Contact Marc Lonnstrom, Realtor, Home Net Connections: 808-227-8310 or e-mail: Marc@HomeNetHawaii.com. Website: www.HomeNetHawaii.com.

SINGLE AND OVER 40? An inter racial group exclusively for Adventist singles over 40. Stay at home and meet new friends in USA with a pen pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information send self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO-40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

TROUBLE WITH HEARING AID? Lilli Electronics is a full service hearing aid repair lab. We can quickly return most hearing aids to perfect, working condition. Serving the U.S. and beyond since 1967. Call: 1-800-663-8882 or visit us at lillielectronics.com.


Bulletin Board


PRESCHOOL: Laguna Niguel church, Calif. has space available for lease for Adventist Preschool. Facilities already licensed for a preschool. Looking for entire new preschool to start business in resort area with much demand for preschool. Call 949-495-0311 or e-mail Lnsda@cox.net.

WILL PURCHASE well-maintained older 4-door family van to be used by traveling colporteur that covers the western states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Nevada and California. Current van has been used many years in the Lord’s work and has 360,000 miles and must be replaced soon. 209-745-2302.

NATIONAL WOMEN’S HEALTH Week (May 8-14) is a great time for women’s and health ministry departments to feature health awareness events. Start planning your “Healthy Mother’s Day” event at your church, school or community organization. Contact Sal Butler, nhwambassador@gmail.com, 805-413-7388 for a free handbook to help plan your event.

Employment

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology. Opportunity will include teaching undergraduate courses, supervising clinical practicum, advising students, and research. Must have a CCC-SLP and an earned Ph.D. in Speech-Language Pathology; Masters degree with 3-years teaching and/or clinical experience will be considered if candidate is interested in pursuing a Ph.D. Interested candidates please apply at: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is seeking a Professor of Hebrew Bible. Job opportunity includes teaching general education religion courses, teaching Hebrew Bible and language courses and advising students. Interested candidates please apply at: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi.

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sustainable living at 4,000 elevation. Free living for experienced farmer. Call 760-808-1434 or fax 760-321-7714.

GLENDALE ADVENTIST MEDICAL Center, Glendale, Calif. Controller. Overall responsibility for the effective performance of the Accounting department. Also responsible for ensuring the effectiveness and efficiency of all departmental operations. Baccalaureate degree. Masters preferred. Systems thinker, effective communication, leadership, team builder, financial acumen, analytical, decision support success, clinical analysis, results oriented, consulting skills. For more information, visit GlendaleAdventist.com/Careers or call 800-576-3113.

GLENDALE ADVENTIST MEDICAL Center, Glendale, Calif. Major Gifts Officer for Healthcare Foundation. Cultivates, solicits and stewards a portfolio of major gift prospects/donors in support of the organization’s mission and goals. Strong written, verbal, interpersonal and organizational skills. Able to represent the organization to a variety of constituents including board members, staff, major donors, former patients. Proven track record in asking and receiving charitable contributions. Conversant knowledge of planned and estate giving. Minimum of three to five years progressive experience in a development department, with a minimum of two years direct solicitation and/or volunteer coordination. Capital and endowment campaign experience helpful. Ability to make public and individual presentations. Proficiency with word processing, spreadsheet and database software. Some travel may be required. For more information, visit GlendaleAdventist.com/Careers or call 800-576-3113.

LA SIERRA UNIVERSITY seeks to fill an Assistant Professor position in Communication, beginning July 1, 2011. Areas: Mass Media/Advertising/Public Relations/Journalism and methods of research. The successful candidates will be able to: 1) teach a variety of courses, 2) demonstrate a research record, 3) advise majors and minors, 4) supervise internships and 5) serve on committees. Qualifications: Ph.D. in Communication or related discipline. In lieu of a Ph.D., at least ten years of professional journalism/media experience. See posting: http://www.lasierra.edu/index.php?id=3823.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST University offers master’s degrees in business, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees.

UNION COLLEGE seeks director to provide academic oversight and general leadership for the unique International Rescue and Relief program, involving emergency response, survival training, emergency management and international study. Expected qualifications include international relief or mission experience, global leadership, international relief or development, disaster or emergency management, public health, or public administration. Contact Malcolm Russell, VPAA, Union College, marussel@ucollege.edu, 402-486-2501.

BIBLE INSTRUCTORS GUILD (B.I.G.) Rally, (Jan. 15-16) Philadelphian church, 2640 Santa Fe Ave., Long Beach 90810. Dr. James Kyle, training for lay Bible instructors Sabbath afternoon. Contact patbibleharris@aol.com.

SAN DIEGO ADVENTIST FORUM (Jan. 8) 10 a.m. Brian S. Bull and Fritz Guy, “Genesis 1: What in the World Did that First Hebrew Audience Hear?” Tierrasanta church, 11260 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, CA. Info: tsdachurch.org/forum.htm or 858-775-4671. E-mail sdaf.org@gmail.com or gmrick@sbcglobal.net.

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Missing Members
Kevin M. Watts, Weston Wheelen, Vincent Alan Zappula, Brian Zuill.

**TAMARIND**
Contact: 417 S. Tamarind Ave., Compton, CA 90220 or call 323-774-0181.


**Real Estate**

**BEAUTIFUL 3-BDRM, 2-bath home for rent in Shasta Forest Village, Shingletown, Calif. 25 miles east of Redding. We need more Seventh-day Adventists to help us get a light in this community. Have started a branch SS here. Good medical clinic with Adventist doctors. Contact Claude Turner, 530-474-1344 or claudetrnr@yahoo.com.**

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PUC and LSU are teaming up to show how you can pay for college.

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www.puc.edu/fa-workshop

Financial Aid Workshop Schedule/Jan-Feb 2011

Jan 4
- Armona Union Academy
- El Dorado Adventist School
- Mountain View Academy

5
- Fresno Adventist Academy
- Pine Hills Adventist Academy
- Thunderbird Academy (at 6:30 pm)

6
- Bakersfield Adventist Academy
- Loma Linda Academy

10
- Los Angeles Adventist Academy
- Redding Adventist Academy
- Redwood Adventist Academy
- Sacramento Adventist Academy

11
- Central Valley Christian Academy
- San Diego Academy

12
- Escondido Adventist Academy
- Paradise Adventist Academy

18
- Calexico Mission School
- PUC Preparatory School
- San Gabriel Academy

19
- Mountain View Academy

24
- Lodi Adventist Academy
- Orangewood Academy

25
- Glendale Adventist Academy
- La Sierra Academy
- Napa Christian Academy
- Redlands Adventist Academy

26
- San Fernando Valley Academy

27
- Mesa Grande Adventist Academy
- Newbury Park Adventist Academy
- Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy

Feb 8
- Hawaiian Mission Academy

All sessions begin at 7 pm
AT REST


“Remember to observe the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.”
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